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WHAT IF SENNA HAD LIVED? THE ULTIMATE BATTLE THAT NEVER WAS

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS, SPORT, PAGE 24

MIRACLE MAN THE PADRE PIO EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY REVIEW



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Hague told 'win or you're out'

HE THREAT to William Hague's Tory leadership grew last night as his party's whips launched a desperate attempt to head off moves by his MPs to sack him. Mr Hague has lost the support of leading figures on the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs, whose executive committee has a crucial role in deciding his fate.

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

unless the party gained more than 1,000 seats in next Thursday's local elections. The desperation in Tory ranks was shown when a member of the executive told *The Independent* Mr Hague could be deposed though there was no obvious successor in the wings. "He is not going to make it and he has got to go," the senior Tory said. "We will sort out who replaces him later. It is like

Edward Heath in 1975; no one expected Margaret Thatcher to come through." There is a haemorrhage of support for Mr Hague at Westminster despite his attempt to quell the rebellion when he made an unscheduled address to his MPs on Wednesday. The 10 Opposition whips began telephoning Tory MPs in an attempt to prevent them deserting him. One Tory insider said Mr Hague's position was worse than John Major's in 1995, when he resigned the

party leadership and beat off a challenge from John Redwood. "Major had a hard core of loyalist MPs; William does not. He doesn't have any credit in the bank. A lot of MPs are neutral." Party rules state Mr Hague would have to lose a vote of confidence among his 162 MPs before a leadership contest was triggered. But Mr Hague's allies admit privately that his survival is threatened. Tory officials predicted the party will gain 500 seats, in line with its dismal opinion poll ratings, in next Thursday's council elections.

But many Tory MPs believe the party will have to gain between 1,000 and 1,200 seats to show it is "back in the race". If the party fails to make such gains, a repeat of the results in a general election would unseat Tory MPs. "This is about self-preservation," one Tory frontbencher said last night. "If the MPs think we will do even worse than in the 1997 election, they will press the panic button."

There was no sign of the Tory turmoil abating yesterday, despite Mr Hague's attempts to control the controversy provoked by Peter Lilley, his deputy, who enraged Tory MPs last week by saying the free market had only a limited role to play in health, education and welfare. There was growing speculation that Mr Lilley would lose the deputy leadership - and his responsibility for party policy-making - when Mr Hague reshuffles his Shadow Cabinet

after the European Parliament elections in June. A prominent Tory grassroots activist, Eric Chalker, deputy chairman of the Charter Movement, which campaigns for greater democracy within the party, said ordinary party members "struggled" to support Mr Hague and there should be a leadership contest before the general election. He said: "It will be very difficult to summon up the belief that William Hague is ever going to be able to lead us to victory."



One of the youngest of the ethnic Albanian refugees arriving at East Midlands airport from Macedonia yesterday evening

Claire Lim/News Team

UK accused on refugees

AS A SECOND group of Kosovo refugees arrived in Britain from Macedonia yesterday, Germany accused the UK of shirking its responsibilities in the crisis.

BY CHERRY NORTON AND IMRE KARACS in Berlin

About 160 refugees landed at East Midlands airport last night, including 18 said to be in need of medical treatment. The refugees were divided into two groups and taken by bus to two reception centres, one in Derbyshire, the other in Leicestershire. Those taken to Derbyshire were expected to be housed in a former residential special school near Chesterfield. The other group was expected to be accommodated in a hotel on the outskirts of Leicester, run by the British Red Cross. Last night's influx follows the arrival in West Yorkshire at the weekend of about 160 refugees, mostly women and children. They are being housed in two nursing homes in Leeds city centre. A leading German politician yesterday accused both Britain and France of failing to share

the burden of looking after refugees. Germany has already volunteered to take 10,000 Kosovars and there is talk of doubling number. Peter Struck, parliamentary leader of the ruling Social Democrat Party, told the newspaper Bild: "We have completely fulfilled our obligations and expect the other European Union nations to follow suit. England and France especially have not taken a single refugee. That's just incredible." Although Mr Struck's remarks were incorrect, Germans suspect they will end up taking in the vast majority of Balkan refugees. More than half of all the people fleeing the wars in Croatia and Bosnia from 1991-95 ended up Germany, including 350,000 from Bosnia alone. Mr Struck said: "We cannot talk about taking more refugees until the other European states fulfil their pledges."

He lost his home, hid for a month, then saw his family killed yards from safety

THE AVDIU family was only yards from safety when the landmine exploded. Ibrahim Avdiu remembers only a flash, a bang and then the sounds of moaning and screaming from his wife and daughter and the others who were shredded by its blast. Stumbling around in the darkness and the panic, he reached for Zejnete, at 12 his eldest child, and found that she was bleeding heavily from her right leg. His wife, Minire, was wounded in three places but she was to live. Zejnete, and four others, died.

The tragedy unfolded in the early hours of Wednesday at the border between Kosovo and Macedonia. Mr and Mrs Avdiu, Zejnete and their other children - Arta, 10 and seven-year-old twin boys, Arnen and Ardzend - were among a group of 68 people making their way into Macedonia after being forced from their homes by Serb paramilitaries. Like many before them, they risked going over an unofficial

border crossing to avoid being herded into the increasingly overcrowded refugee camps in Macedonia. But it was a gamble that was to cost them dearly. "We were nearly there," said Mr Avdiu yesterday. "Then an old man in front stood on the mine and it went off. I don't remember much; it was so confusing. There was an explosion and a flash of light. Zejnete was bleeding heavily from her right leg but there was nothing we could do. I can't describe the scene to you. It was horrible. I did my best for the other seven who were injured, but we could not stop the bleeding from Zejnete's leg. The nearest town was 20km away. We just had to wait there with the injured in the hope that someone would find us. Eventually, at 8.30am, a Macedonian army patrol came by and got the wounded out of there. But it was too late for my

daughter. She bled to death. I am 95 per cent certain she would have lived if we could have found help sooner." Mr Avdiu was trudging through the hilltop village of Upper Blace where he had just buried Zejnete. Clutching a twin by each hand as his other daughter walked ahead, he looked dishevelled, exhausted and in shock. Neither he nor his children cried; they were too traumatised. In any case, the youngsters had been told that Zejnete was in hospital. The family had been in hiding for four weeks in an abandoned house in the village of Lanista after being forced from their own home of Kacanik.

"We walked for 18 hours to make it to the border," said Mr Avdiu, 39, a builder. "I have a brother in Skopje and I wanted my family to be able to live with him. I am numb at the moment. I feel in trauma. She was my first born, a happy girl with long blond hair. It hasn't sunk in yet." Mr Avdiu named three of the other dead as Osman Jezerci, 62, Rabija Kuka, 23 and a 45-year-old man he knew only as Salip. Mrs Avdiu was described as stable in hospital at Tetovo, an hour outside the capital of Skopje, but some of the others are thought to be in a more serious condition. The United Nations refugee

agency (UNHCR) is growing increasingly concerned about the dangers of landmines as more refugees try to avoid the official border at Blace. "When there is a blockade at the border we find people spilling out of Kosovo through other areas," said Paula Ghedini, a UNHCR spokeswoman. "But the whole area is heavily mined and very difficult for us to get to." Across the valley from Upper Blace, where Mr Avdiu waited for a bus to Skopje, was Lower Blace. From here, Yugoslav forces could be seen, just a few hundred yards away, after shelling the Kosovo village of Rezalec. Ismail Bakdi, a 30-year-old ethnic Albanian farmer, had heard the tanks in the morning and called his wife, Arife, to watch. "It was her village," he said. "She is from over there and I am from here, but the border never used to matter. We used to go to the same school, the General Jankovic School, and walked to meet each other over

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WAR IN THE BALKANS

"[We could] carpet bomb Serbia into submission in a few days. But carpet bombing is not legal or morally justified"

George Robertson, aboard HMS Invincible

"All Milosevic is doing is further isolating himself from the rest of the political elite inside Yugoslavia and...refusing to come to terms with reality"

Jamie Shea, Nato spokesman

"Belgrade must stop its suicidal policies of confrontation with the whole world and look for a political solution"

Milo Djukanovic, President of Montenegro

"It is totally irresponsible of the UNHCR to ask for new camps without paying attention to the consequences for our country"

Pavle Trajanov, Macedonian Interior Minister

"Yugoslavia is ready to accept a civilian mission under a United Nations flag"

Borislav Milosevic, Slobodan Milosevic's brother and ambassador to Russia

"The stakes are very high now for the entire world. Either law and order will be restored, or the unlimited force of one country will rule the world"

Boris Yeltsin

Russians take peace plan to Belgrade

NEGOTIATIONS

By RUPERT CORNWELL

RUSSIA'S SPECIAL envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin was on his way to Belgrade last night with what he termed "concrete proposals" to end the Kosovo war, but Western governments remain profoundly sceptical that any breakthrough is at hand.

Before his discussions with Slobodan Milosevic, the former Russian Prime Minister held talks in Bonn with the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. Both claimed to detect "movement" on the diplomatic front but Mr Schröder warned: "This is the beginning of a process, not the end."

The deputy US Secretary of State Strobe Talbott was even gloomier yesterday in Brussels, where he met Nato ambassadors. He said there was "very, very hard work to be done" before Russia and the allies reached a common position, let alone an overall settlement with President Milosevic.

Three basic issues have to be resolved before agreement, the terms on which Nato would stop bombing, the make-up of the future Kosovo peacekeeping force, and the shape of the administration of a post-war Kosovo.

Like Belgrade, Moscow insists - and insisted again yesterday - that nothing can happen until the air strikes stop. But the key Nato countries are sticking to the letter of their summit communiqué in Washington last weekend.

That stated there would be no end to the bombing until Belgrade has "unequivocally" accepted its five demands, and "demonstrably" begun to withdraw its forces "according to a precise and rapid timetable".

The composition of the peacekeeping force is, if anything, an even more intractable problem. The alliance demands it must be Nato-led, even if technically under the aegis of the United Nations or the Or-

ganisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Osce), and bolstered by a substantial Russian contingent.

Nato suggested it may be moving towards a common position with Moscow. But, despite Mr Chernomyrdin's claims last week, it is anything but clear whether Mr Milosevic has accepted an armed international force for Kosovo or - even if he has - what precisely he means



Viktor Chernomyrdin: A Russian plan for peace

by the term. The sacking of his deputy premier, Vuk Draskovic, after he acknowledged that acceptance of a UN force with a Nato component in Kosovo would be inevitable, suggests hardliners are firmly in command of Mr Milosevic's government.

The signs are Belgrade is not prepared to go much beyond a lightly armed, effectively civilian force - a "KVM with side arms," it is being called, after the 2,000-strong Kosovo Verification Mission of monitors sent in after the ill-fated ceasefire

agreement of October 1998. There would be next to no Nato participation.

Indeed, Borislav Milosevic, the President's brother and Yugoslavia's ambassador to Russia, almost taunted the West yesterday by listing candidate countries alongside Russia to take part. He suggested: "Let's say India, Belarus, perhaps Cyprus, Namibia, Algeria, perhaps other Arab and Latin American countries, Argentina, Cuba." He flatly excluded any Nato member which had taken part in the bombing.

Complicating matters further is confusion over Russia's own stance. There has been no word on precisely what sort of force Moscow favours, nor its attitude to placing Kosovo under some form of UN mandate, a step which would require a Security Council resolution that could be blocked by a Russian veto.

Nato officials also detect tensions between the Foreign Ministry under Igor Ivanov, and President Yeltsin's representatives led by Mr Chernomyrdin, who has been regularly more upbeat about the prospects for a deal.

"The signals from Moscow have been conflicting," a senior British official said last night. "But you never know with Milosevic," he added, trying to find a chink of hope in the prospects facing the Russian envoy.

"He could surprise everyone. After all, in the 1995 Dayton talks on Bosnia, Milosevic agreed to give up Sarajevo with its large Serb population, just like that, when no-one expected him to. But we have to be pessimistic on what the Russians can do."

Tony Blair will visit Albania next week to meet government leaders, and see how international relief agencies are coping with the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Kosovo.



One of the seven Sea Harriers deployed on HMS 'Invincible' in the Adriatic

Royal Navy

Nato increases air force in Balkans to 1,200 planes

REINFORCEMENTS

By KIM SENGUPTA

space to Nato last week. The agreements will allow allied commanders more flexibility in missions aimed at the heart of Serbia and Kosovo.

George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced the British deployment during a visit to Gioia del Colle yesterday afternoon. From there he flew to the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible, stationed in the Adriatic. Today, he is expected to fly to Tirana to meet the Albanian President, Rexhep Mejdani, and his government, as well as visiting allied troops and a refugee camp.

Invincible, along with other British ships in the area, HMS Newcastle, Iron Duke and the submarine Splendid, will play a key role in enforcing any future naval blockade to block Yugoslavia's fuel supplies.

Mr Robertson was accom-

panied on the trip by the shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Howard, the Tory defence spokesman John Maples, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on defence and foreign affairs Menzies Campbell, and Bruce George, chairman of the Defence Select Committee.

Nato is now at the end of the sixth week of bombardment of Yugoslavia. Operation Desert Storm, the land war in the Gulf in 1991, began with six weeks of bombing, but Nato commanders insist that several more weeks of air strikes will be needed before troops can be sent into Kosovo.

Mr Robertson admitted that the allies had initially believed that this prolonged campaign would not be necessary. "We hoped for a short campaign, we hoped Milosevic would be more rational and not have taken on

the whole of Nato. But he has miscalculated. He may be obstinate enough, cussed enough or suicidal enough to think Nato will go away, but not all his people feel the same way. You can carpet bomb Serbia into submission in a few days given the air power we have. But carpet bombing is not legal or morally justified."

The Secretary of State criticised the "smart ales, armchair generals, and massed regiments of columnists" who criticised the allied war efforts with the benefit of hindsight. He added: "Very soon we shall be in Kosovo. I feel what we uncover will horrify people and prove all of this justified."

Asked whether a naval blockade of Montenegro, which together with Serbia makes up Yugoslavia, would lead to a confrontation with Russia, Mr Robertson said: "We'll see, but the Russians have not tried to provoke any confrontation up until now."

BRIEFING: DAY 37

■ Families in the United States have offered to take in 1,500 ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo. The US agreed earlier this month to take up to 20,000 refugees.

■ Yugoslavia filed a World Court case against 10 Nato alliance members, claiming their bombing campaign breaches international law. Yugoslavia also asked the 15-judge court, the UN's highest judicial body, to call a halt to the campaign while the case is being considered - a process which can take years.

■ Austria has agreed to take 5,000 more refugees and speed up airlifts from Macedonia in a bid to help the problem of overflowing refugee camps. Austria has already admitted 5,000 refugees.

■ UNHCR has called for countries to cut down on bureaucracy and speed up evacuations from Macedonia, where refugee camps are overflowing. On Wednesday, 1,593 refugees were evacuated, with the largest groups going to France (592) and Turkey (263) but this falls well short of UNHCR's immediate target of 2,000 departures a day.

■ A small group of Kosovo Albanians in a Dutch refugee camp has launched a hunger strike in the hope of getting Albanian television broadcasts.

■ The Greek Foreign Minister, George Papandreu, says Athens opposes any Nato ground attack in Kosovo and would not participate in such an action.

■ Nato yesterday halted for two hours all flights to or from Tirana's Rinas International Airport after a sniper dog found something suspicious in a package for Kosovo refugees.

■ Nearly a hundred journalists rallied in front of the Yugoslav Embassy in Croatia demanding the release of one of their colleagues jailed in Montenegro.

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UK taking too few Kosovars, say Germans

CLARE SHORT, the International Development Secretary, clashed angrily with MPs yesterday when they said the Government should be "ashamed" it had accepted so few refugees from Kosovo.

As a second plane load of refugees arrived, bringing the total number to just over 300, the Commons International Development Select Committee attacked the United Kingdom's failure to take in more families from the war zone.

Ms Short, who raised the humanitarian crisis in Macedonia and Albania at the cabinet

meeting, hinted that more aid would be made available soon to ease the problem.

She said that it was clear that the United Nations High Commission for Refugees could not cope with the crisis and revealed that a special Home Office team was being flown out to the region in the next few days to provide extra expertise.

However, Ms Short infuriated MPs when she insisted that the reason so few ethnic Albanian refugees had been flown to Britain was that they simply did not want to come. "We may

think they want to come here, but they are desperate to re-unite with their families. It's not the case that Britain is not accepting them, most people don't want to come here," she said.

Ms Short added that the reason Germany had taken so many refugees was because it already had a large ethnic Albanian population, unlike the UK. Germany has already accepted 10,000 Kosovars and is debating whether to take in another 10,000. Germany took in 350,000 Bosnian refugees during the 1992-95 war in the former Yugoslav republic.

THE REFUGEES

BY PAUL WAUGH

Ms Short said the British Government had decided that there was "no upper or lower limit" to the number of Kosovars it would take, she said. But Britain would not set a quota because that would be seen as complicity with the Serbian government's policy of ethnic cleansing.

Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley and one of the harshest critics of government

policy, said she agreed with Amnesty International that the UK's acceptance of so few refugees amounted to "shameful tokenism".

Ms Clwyd said that it was clear the UK had not even appeared on the list of countries given to refugees applying for airlift places. Last week, the word England had been added - in Biro - on to the forms handed out, she said.

Jenny Tonge, Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond, said that most people were surprised that Britain had failed to match the commitment of such countries as Germany and Norway.

"People are feeling a little ashamed that we appear not to be taking enough people into this country. I can't believe that we can't devise some sort of getting these people who want to come to Britain," she said.

The Local Government Association had announced that it had 3,000 beds available across the country, so there was no

reason why more refugees should not be admitted, she said.

The committee, which has just returned from a fact-finding mission in the Balkan region, told Ms Short that more needed to be done to help Macedonia to cope with the refugee crisis.

Tess Kingham, MP for Gloucester, said that the ethnic tensions in the country, which has a large Albanian minority of its own, made it a "powder keg" that would explode unless more aid was forthcoming. However, Ms Short said that

it was Albania, with more than 300,000 refugees, which needed more help than Macedonia and she would not succumb to "a sort of blackmail" from the Macedonian government's warnings that it was reaching breaking point.

Macedonia has accepted more than 200,000 refugees and has warned it may collapse unless the West injects at least £300m to offset a budget deficit caused by the war and take in far larger numbers of refugees from the camps situated around the capital, Skopje.

Thomas Sutcliffe, page 8

Twenty soldiers, a young wife, and ordeals in the name of war

ATROCITIES

BY EMMA DALY in Kukes AND MARCUS TANNER

"THERE WERE about 20 soldiers and they ordered me to make coffee for all of them, and after that they ordered me to clean the place and to sweep it. I cleaned it all and then they told me to take off my clothes."

Zyrafete Trolli was describing one episode in the three days of humiliation and terror endured by several hundred Kosovo Albanian women held prisoner by the Serbs in the village of Dragacina.

It is with enormous fear and hesitation that these women have broken the traditional taboo that forbids any discussion of sex to repeat their experience at the hands of the Serbian police.

But some women in the refugee camp at Kukes in northern Albania have told the organisation Human Rights Watch, and other aid workers, in some detail of the clinical, mechanical way they were imprisoned and sexually abused.

The ordeal began on 21 April when about 200 women and elderly men from Mujlan, Dujale and Dragacina, three adjacent villages near the town of Surva Reka, were herded by Serbian Interior Ministry police into a field. In accordance with now established practice, the Serbs separated the women from the old men (the younger men having fled) and took the men off to an unknown destination. The women were then locked up in three buildings in Dragacina where the younger, prettier ones were singled out for sex-

ual services, sometimes in the middle of the night.

One woman, aged 29, whose name has been withheld by the organisation, told Human Rights Watch that she was selected from the group and taken off from the main building to a smaller room in a separate building. There she was ordered to take her clothes off. Five members of the security forces stood watching in the room as she undressed, though only one had sex with her. The other four left the room and shouted at her while she was being raped through a walkie-talkie which they had left under the bed.

A second woman who was older and who was not raped said the Serb police came into their compound in the middle of the night and flashed torches into their faces. When they found the type they wanted they shouted at her: "You come with us." The woman

came back to the building two hours later and said to the older woman: "Don't ask me anything."

Other women said they were stripped and forced to serve officers in the nude. One woman, aged 23, said that she was put on a bed with a young Serb soldier, both of them naked, while the commanding officer, dressed in uniform, watched from the corner of the room.

According to the report, the commanding officer was lying with his cap on about 10 feet away from the woman and the soldier. The man touched her breasts but did not force her to touch him. "I just kept crying all the time and pushing his hands away," she told the rights group. "Finally he said to me, 'I'm not going to do anything'."



Zyrafete Trolli was one of several hundred ethnic Albanian women held prisoner by Serbs in the Kosovo village of Dragacina

Tom Pillion



MORE THAN 600,000 Kosovo Albanians have fled their homes amid reports of gross human rights abuses. Readers of *The Independent* have given more than £750,000 in aid but more is still needed. Please send a cheque or postal order payable to Kosovo Appeal to the Disasters Emergency Committee, PO Box 2710, London W1A 5AD. Or call 0990 22 22 33 to make a credit card donation.

THE BALKAN QUESTION

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED



Rugova: virtual prisoner

Who are the leaders of the Kosovo Albanians? The Kosovars suffer from the fact that their leadership is not united. In the 1980s most of them supported the local Communist leadership under Adem Vlasi, which wanted increased autonomy within Yugoslavia.

After Slobodan Milosevic abolished Kosovo's autonomy in 1989, leadership passed to the non-Communist League for a Democratic Kosovo (LDK), led by Ibrahim Rugova, a writer. This party demanded total independence for Kosovo and financed a parallel society of schools and

hospitals throughout the province by levying a tax on the incomes of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovo Albanians working abroad.

Although strictly non-violent, it successfully ordered the population to boycott state institutions and local and presidential elections.

In the past two years the leadership has split into many factions. Hardliners in the LDK, tired of Rugova's non-violent approach, split off and followed the veteran dissident Adem Demaj into a new party. Middle-class intellectuals also broke with the LDK, complaining that it was au-

thoritarian. Others broke with the LDK over its pacifism by joining a new guerrilla army, the Kosovo Liberation Army, led by Hasim Thaqi.

Today, Rugova is in Pristina, a virtual prisoner of the Serbs who want to use his LDK to broker their own deal on Kosovo's future.

The KLA, meanwhile, is based in Albania and in parts of Kosovo and has set up its own provisional government. Both groups have their own representatives abroad, fighting for control over the LDK's once considerable funds.

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WAR IN THE BALKANS

Albanian refugees tortured by Serbs

MONTENEGRO
By STEVE CRAWSHAW in Rozaje

"I THOUGHT I was dead. Not a hundred per cent sure – a thousand per cent," says Idris Murtezaj quietly describing how he was pushed hands up against the wall in a Serb prison, a cocked gun at his head. "The gun clicked, and nothing happened. They did that to me five or six times during those days. Sometimes against the wall, sometimes down on the floor. We were so afraid. I thought, 'That's it'."

This terrifying experience did not start in Kosovo, but in the supposed haven of Montenegro where Idris and his family thought they had finally reached safety. His sister, his 78-year-old mother, his wife and six young children had made the snowy crossing over the mountains from Kosovo down into the little town of Rozaje, a poverty-stricken community that has provided a threadbare welcome for tens of thousands of refugees.

From Rozaje, Idris went with three friends to pick up an injured friend sheltering in a nearby village but soldiers cap-

tured them on the way. The soldiers, including Serb reservists, were liberal only with their violence. "They put handcuffs on us, and took us to Novi Pazar [across the border into Serbia]. They broke three of my friend's ribs. They hit my head against the wall. It hurt for five or six days. We did not get anything to eat for two days."

Idris did not approach me to give his story, and spoke hesitantly when he gave details only in response to persistent questioning, showing none of the familiar fluency of story-tellers.

He says he was handcuffed all the time as the soldiers abused them aimlessly. Despite questions such as, "Did you beat Serbs?", this was no interrogation. This was simply a chance for these soldiers and Serbian police to drive home to helpless refugees their absolute and absolutely violent power over them.

After two days, Idris and 300 others were suddenly bundled into buses and driven into Montenegro, and dumped, to

make their way back to Rozaje. Idris's family had already given him up for dead.

There is an increasingly common incidence of random, sanctioned brutality. Galimeta Bogeska tells how eight men in masks and military uniform came on Monday night to the Montenegro house where she and her family had found refuge. "They beat up one man. They demanded money, they took 1,200 marks (about \$450, a fortune in Yugoslav terms) then

they told us, 'Get out of here. Get out, and don't come back'."

The family fled down the mountainside to the relative safety of Rozaje, where the local authorities are supportive, though tiny Montenegro, with a population of 650,000, which theoretically still forms part of President Milosevic's Yugoslav federation.

Like Idris Murtezaj and his family, Galimeta and her children now sleep in primitive conditions on the floor of a dis-

used factory. Nearby fields house a tent city.

Earlier this month, six Kosovo Albanians were killed by Yugoslav soldiers near Rozaje, an incident that outraged the increasingly powerless Montenegrin government. Jiri Dienstbier, former Czech dissident and foreign minister who is now the United Nations investigator for the region, visited Rozaje yesterday and said he regretted that the international community had offered

"so little help" to Montenegro with its refugee crisis, and he called for a full investigation into the army killings.

The chances of such an investigation are slim. The Serb-dominated army does not answer questions. There is a widespread perception that pro-Belgrade forces are deliberately destabilising authority. The local police station is sand-bagged against possible attack. A couple of miles from Rozaje, soldiers arrested a French tele-

vision cameraman and his translator who had been accompanied by a Montenegrin police escort. The Frenchman faces trial for espionage, and a sentence of up to 10 years.

Montenegro itself is a brave attempt at the multi-ethnic federation of Yugoslavia which Slobodan Milosevic has long since destroyed. Tolerance is still its watchword, and many of its Muslims are fiercely loyal to the government, with its Orthodox Christian traditions.



A young Kosovo refugee shuffling past the tents of the camp at Rozaje in the only protective footwear he can find

Pier Paolo Citoli/AP

TIMETABLE DAY 37

Thursday 29 April
12.10am: Explosions hit Novi Sad area.
12.25am: Nato targets Pozarevac, President Milosevic's hometown. Tanjug says a missile hit the railway station near town centre.
3am: Nato destroys a bridge over the Sava river at Ostruznica, outside Belgrade and damages another on the route between Nis and Skopje.
8am: Tanjug says blasts heard in and around Podgorica.
4am: Explosions in Belgrade and Podgorica. Serbian media reports missiles hitting the oil refinery in Novi Sad and setting it ablaze, as well as explosions in the Montenegrin port of Bar.
5am: All clear sounds in Pristina.
5.20am: All-clear sounds in Belgrade.
10.10am: Air raid sirens sound in Pristina.
11am: Air raid sirens sound in Nis, Cacak, Kragujevac and Kraljev.
12.30pm: Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian envoy to Yugoslavia, meets Chancellor Gerhard Schröder for talks on ending war.
1pm: A factory making iron and nickel compounds in the central Kosovo town of Glogovac is hit by Nato air strikes.
1.55pm: Air raid sirens sound in Belgrade.
2pm: Factory in Glogovac, bombed by Nato at 1pm, hit again.
4.10pm: All clear signal sounds in Belgrade.
All times BST

US Congress splits on Kosovo

CAPITOL HILL

By ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

A GROUP of US Congressmen has launched an effort to negotiate peace in Kosovo, a sign of fragmenting political support in the US for the war.

The Congress split in its first debate on the issue, and failed to back the present strategy, leaving Washington unusually divided over the campaign.

Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican, is to lead a bipartisan group that will meet

members of the Russian Duma and advisers to President Slobodan Milosevic in Vienna today.

"The goal is to avoid having to put US and British forces into Kosovo," said Pete Peterson, a spokesman for Mr Weldon.

In another example of free-lance diplomacy, the Rev Jesse

Jackson, the civil rights leader, is heading to Belgrade against the White House's wishes to see religious and political leaders.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives voted by 249 to 180 to force President Bill Clinton to gain congressional approval if he wants to deploy

ground forces. A resolution to support the air campaign failed on a tied vote of 213 to 213.

The war has also resulted in some anti-British commentary. In *The Washington Post*, the columnist Robert Novak quotes angry right-wing Republicans. James Inhofe of Oklahoma criticised Tony Blair for backing the air war, saying it "is easy for him to say. We have 365 airplanes over there. He has 20."

Belgrade regime 'cracking apart'

DISSENTERS

By JOHN DAVISON

NATO IS seizing on evidence of growing dissent within Yugoslavia, after a former army general joined calls made by the former deputy prime minister for President Slobodan Milosevic to resign.

The allies are claiming that cracks in the Belgrade regime, which have been predicted almost since the bombing started, are opening. They hope that dissent in the army may

lead to Mr Milosevic being toppled from within and allow the Balkan crisis to be resolved.

The latest voice to speak out is that of Vuk Obradovic, president of the Social Democratic Party and once a rising star in the Yugoslav army. He was quoted in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*

as saying: "Milosevic should resign – especially because it is clear that he will fall anyway."

Serbian authorities have blocked the transmission of an interview he gave to John Simpson, the BBC correspondent in Belgrade.

The move follows the sacking on Wednesday of Vuk Draskovic, the Yugoslav deputy prime minister who earlier this week called on Mr Milosevic to stop lying to the Serbian people about the chances of victory.

General Obradovic's army connections make his intervention important. "Vuk Obradovic is not just another opposition politician," said Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. "... How many of his former military comrades is he speaking for?"

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Heart op on floor of pub saves life

A DOCTOR who saved the life of a man dying from a stab wound by performing open-heart surgery on the floor of a crowded pub said yesterday she felt "fantastic" that the gamble had paid off.

Stephen Niland, 22, was lying in his own blood when Dr Heather Clark, 35, a specialist registrar with the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service at the Royal London Hospital, arrived at The Swan pub in Stratford, east London where he had been assaulted. An ambulance crew were rigging up drips and trying to resuscitate him, but it was immediately clear to the doctor that emergency surgery was necessary.

Dr Clark said: "He was barely conscious and hardly breathing. I made two holes using a scalpel blade on either side of his chest to relieve the pressure on his lungs. The lungs are in a sac and if you get a wound through the chest, the cavity can fill with air squeezing the lungs so you make the holes to relieve the pressure."

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

It is a standard procedure we do quite often.

Seconds later, however, Mr Niland lapsed into a coma and Dr Clark and her colleague, Dr Alistair Mulcahy, could not find a pulse. She knew that the only chance of saving him was to get at the heart and repair the damage, but she had learnt the technique only two days earlier when a colleague had performed it on the victim of a shooting incident. That time the operation had been carried out on the floor of an office but the patient had died.

"I said to Alistair, 'We need to open his chest'. There was no doubt in my mind that this was what he needed. He was effectively dead," she said.

While her colleague gave him an anaesthetic, Dr Clark cut the skin across the chest with a scalpel just below the nipple line and then used a pair of heavy-duty scissors to cut through the sternum (the



breast bone), to allow the chest to be opened in what is known as a thoracotomy, or clam-shell procedure.

"It is very hard work and quite slow and time is of the essence. After I started I asked Alistair to use his scissors to cut from the other side to speed it up," she said.

As a crowd of onlookers watched the bar-room surgery, Dr Clark lifted the ribcage to expose the heart and lungs and

cut the sac surrounding the heart, into which blood and clots caused by the stab wound had leaked. "As I cut it open quite a lot of blood and clots came out. You have to release them because the pressure can stop the heart."

"I was about to massage it to get it going when it started again. Then we saw a little fountain of blood where the heart had been pierced and Alistair stopped it with his finger.

He held it there for an hour while the patient was transferred to hospital. Once he was in theatre it was a fairly simple procedure to stitch him up."

The incident happened on 16 April, but details were not released until yesterday. Mr Niland left hospital six days later and is expected to make a complete recovery.

Although similar surgery has been attempted on several occasions, Mr Niland is believed



Stab victim Stephen Niland (above) was saved by on-the-spot surgery at The Swan pub in Stratford by Dr Heather Clark (left)

to be only the fourth patient to survive an emergency thoracotomy performed outside hospital, and only the third to recover without brain damage.

Dr Clark, who hopes to become a consultant in accident and emergency medicine, said: "It's just fantastic. It is better for us than for anybody. I am just ecstatic that he is alive and well."

She said that the outcome was testimony to the success of

the new approach in emergency care of giving treatment at the scene. This has replaced the old policy of "scoop and run" - picking victims up and rushing them to hospital.

"Ours is the only service that sends a doctor out to treat patients where they are injured. It saves a huge number of lives," she said.

Dr Clark and Dr Mulcahy had been drinking cups of coffee at the end of their shift at

about 7.50pm when the call came through about a stabbing at the pub in Stratford. The helicopter was out of service after 7pm but the doctors had access to a rapid response car and were at the pub shortly after 8pm.

"Officially we were off duty, but we are doctors so of course we went. We were on the scene the second his heart stopped. That is what saved his life," Dr Clark said.

Private schools take fewer state pupils

FIRST SIGNS that fee-paying schools are becoming more socially exclusive since the abolition of the assisted places scheme emerged yesterday. The scheme, which helped to meet the cost of fees for bright children from poor families, was scrapped by the Government last year.

Figures show that the number of recruits from state primary schools into private secondary schools fell. Independent schools warned before the election that they feared they would become less socially mixed if the scheme disappeared.

David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service, which published the figures, said: "In 1997-98, recruits from maintained schools made up 34.1 per

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

cent of all new entrants; this year that proportion has fallen to 31.3 per cent. Over time, this may well result in an unwelcome change in the overall social and economic background of all pupils in those schools."

The scheme is being phased out and schools say the effect of its abolition will not be known for several years. Overall, Mr Woodhead said the survey showed that schools had proved resilient to the loss of assisted places. Commentators had predicted that some weaker independent schools were so reliant on assisted places that they might close. An analysis of schools with assisted places disclosed that, al-

though they had lost 7,787 assisted pupils, the total number of new pupils fell by only 3,611. Schools are trying to make up for the loss of assisted places by improving their own bursary schemes. The proportion of pupils receiving help from their own schools is up by 7.5 per cent and now stands at a record 20 per cent of the total.

About 7.1 per cent of pupils are educated in independent schools. Total numbers rose for the fourth year, up by 0.7 per cent. The biggest increase was among the under-fives where numbers rose by 5.2 per cent. Numbers in secondary schools fell slightly. Heads suggested that the decline in the number of sixth-formers might be due to the introduction of university tuition fees.

Princes' privacy action is dropped after press deal

ST JAMES'S Palace dropped two complaints to the press watchdog yesterday after the newspaper industry agreed a new set of guidelines on coverage of Prince William and Prince Harry.

The Press Complaints Commission issued guidance to newspapers on continuing to respect the privacy of the princes while they complete their education, but made a plea to the Palace to release more information about the boys to offset the need for papers to run trivial stories.

Last year St James's Palace complained to the commission about two newspapers - *The Mirror* and the *Daily Star* - under Clause 6 of the industry's code, alleging unauthorised intrusion into privacy. The Palace confirmed yesterday that the publication of the guidelines resolved its complaints and the commission will not, therefore, be required to adjudicate.

The purpose of the guidelines is to allow some coverage of the boys while ensuring they have their privacy protected. They say: "To begin with, the Palace should continue to recognise that there is a genuine public interest in the dissemination of a reasonable amount of information about the princes - and not just in rare, individual stories."

"They will need to try and offer real stories of interest about the princes as well as photo-opportunities."

"This, in turn, is likely to mean that fewer trivial, sensationalised stories actually appear: they themselves may be a symptom of a lack of genuine non-intrusive information."

The guidelines conclude: "At the same time, all newspapers should be aware of the prob-

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media News Editor

lems posed by an accumulation of newspaper coverage of either of the royal princes - and, within the spirit of the code, seek a view about the likely impact of a particular story on one of the

boys when assessing whether or not to publish a story." Guidance was originally issued in August 1995, before William started at Eton. But it was the death of the boys' mother, Diana, Princess of Wales in August 1997, that ushered in a period of press self-restraint.

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Classic FM underestimates public, says Proms chief



Hania Gmitruk and BBC Symphony Orchestra colleagues at the Albert Hall yesterday to launch this year's Proms programme *John Voos*

THE DIRECTOR of the BBC Proms and former head of Radio 3 poured scorn on the Classic FM radio station yesterday as he launched this summer's season of concerts. Nicholas Kenyon, who in his time as Radio 3 controller was constantly challenged about Classic FM's superior ratings, gave his first public criticism of the rival station. He said the Proms showed that the BBC had a seriousness and commitment to innovation that Classic FM did not possess. Speaking to journalists before the official launch, Mr Kenyon said: "I don't have to be so elaborately polite about Classic FM any more. I can say they are never going to push on the art form in a month of Sundays. "It wouldn't be in Classic FM's nature to do the Proms. Classic FM does an excellent job of providing a narrow selection of classical music to those who want it. And we all know nobody ever lost money underestimating the taste of the British public."

Classic FM is now run by Roger Lewis, the former president of Decca records. Responding to Mr Kenyon's remarks, Mr Lewis said the station had just formed a concerts division and was putting on 12 live events this year, starting with Nigel Kennedy playing his *Hendrix Concerto*. He said: "We do not have access to the multi-million-pound budget the BBC has access to. But what we do have is a real dedication and commitment to creating access to as broad an audience as possible for classical music, and a commitment to work off air with a variety of education schemes."

Mr Kenyon, who is also in charge of the BBC's millennium programming, said that with this year's Proms, "we are being deliberately serious. There is a reflectiveness about this period at the end of the millennium." He has dropped the "gimmicks" of last year, which included playing Beatles and Bob Marley tunes. There is, though, an innovation at the *Last Night of the Proms*. The actor Jeremy Irons will perform Noel Coward songs to celebrate Coward's centenary. Mr Irons is having singing lessons. The Proms director also announced that the BBC is taking the concerts out of London for the first time. Regional events - in Birmingham and Swansea - are to be staged at the same time as the last night concert of the annual season at the Albert Hall in London. This year's two-month-long season, beginning on 16 July, will include concerts dedicated to film music and Irish music. And for the first time the "Last Night" will not actually close the season. The next day a children's event, the *CBBC Proms in The Park*, will feature the singer Charlotte Church, 13, performing with the BBC Philharmonic, an event being introduced by Blue Peter's Katy Hill. A highlight of the concerts will be "One Thousand Years Of Music In A Day", with selections from every century of this millennium. Tickets are on sale from 17 May.

Genetic flaws hit cloned animals

CLONED ANIMALS have been found to suffer from serious genetic defects - a discovery that could deliver a fatal blow to hopes of ever using cloning for human reproduction.

A French team have found evidence that cloning interferes with the normal function of genes, which can lead to debilitating illnesses and death.

Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh who cloned Dolly the sheep, said the findings are the most detailed so far to explain the side-effects resulting from the cloning process. Although Dolly herself appears normal, Professor Wilmut, who cloned Dolly by transferring the nucleus of a ewe's udder cell into an unfertilised egg that had its nucleus removed, said inherent problems with the technique may prevent it being applied to humans.

"It is the most detailed information to emerge so far of the abnormalities arising from nuclear transfer and it is further evidence that we should be extremely cautious in ever applying this to humans."

The French team, led by Jean-Paul Renard of the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique in Jouy-en-Josas, investigated the death of a calf

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

that was cloned from a skin cell taken from the ear of a 15-day-old calf, which was itself a clone of a bovine embryo. The calf had developed normally for six weeks, then suffered a rapid depletion of blood cells and severe anaemia as a result of the incomplete development of its lymph glands.

In a paper published in *The Lancet*, the scientists state: "This is the first report of a long-lasting defect associated with somatic (adult cell) cloning." Because the "parent" of the calf was itself an embryonic clone which had suffered no ill-effects, the scientists concluded that the death must have been due to the process of nuclear transfer from an adult cell.

Professor Wilmut said the problems could be linked to the genetic "reprogramming" of the adult cell nucleus needed for it to switch on all the genes. "What has to happen is that the adult cell's genes are switched off and the genetic reprogramming needs to be done. People were surprised this could happen at all so it is not surprising that sometimes it almost happens but not quite enough."

Tunnel safety go-slow

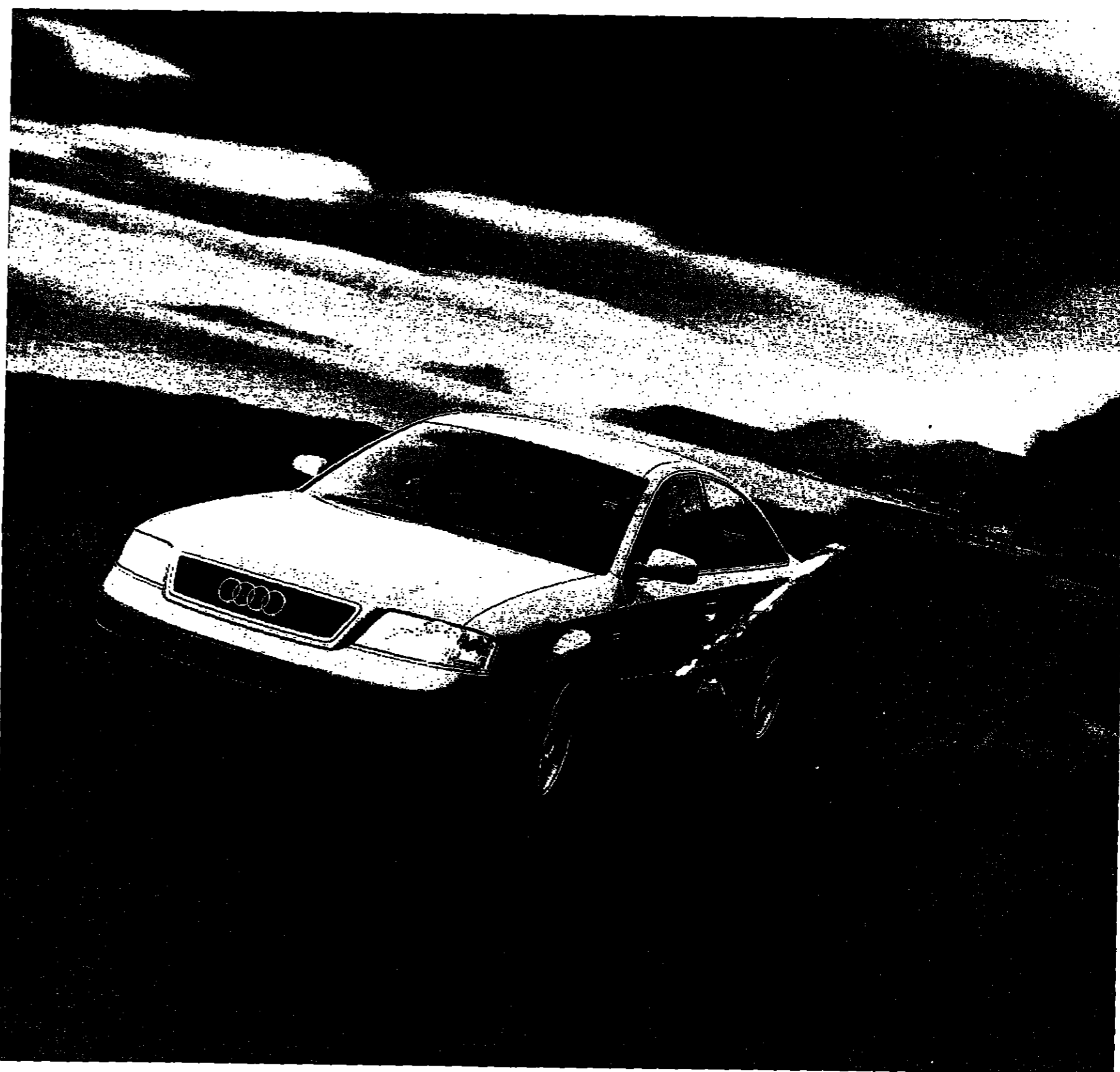
TRAIN DRIVERS were ordered to go to no more than 20mph last night through one of Britain's busiest rail routes to prevent a disaster. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) banned Railtrack from running trains through the Severn Tunnel at the normal 70mph because of the state of the track. The ruling will cause delays over the holiday weekend.

The HSE said there was a "serious risk of derailment" on

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

the line connecting England and Wales under the Severn Channel near Bristol. Railtrack said 11 minutes would be added to journey times and apologised to passengers.

Vic Coleman, the Chief Inspector of Railways, said there were four broken rails in the tunnel in seven months - 20 times the national average.



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HALIFAX

Today's lesson is in silly behaviour and bad grammar

HALFWAY THROUGH education questions, Nicholas Winterton confessed that he had recently been visiting pre-school facilities in his Macclesfield constituency, including Jolly Tots (sarcastic hear-hears) and St Paul's pre-school in Poynton. What happens to a child at the age of two or three, Mr Winterton told us, can have a striking effect on how they turn out when they are 16.

This prompted an anxious thought in me: should impressionable infants really be exposed to Mr Winterton? Have any studies been conducted to determine the long-term effects of such exposure?

The general prejudice, though,

seems to be that coming into contact with MPs is an educational and improving experience. For the first half-hour of the session, for example, the public gallery was principally occupied by a large party of bemused schoolchildren, brought here to examine the machinery of democracy in action. Yesterday this consisted of Mr Blunkett being sarcastic about the Conservatives and the Conservatives being dutifully indignant back (they're still a little too fragile to make sarcasm a ready option).

Mr Blunkett himself was in ebullient mood, even teasing one of his own colleagues after Charles

Clarke had solemnly announced that he would be making a personal inspection of a school in Andrew Dismore's constituency. "What a man!" said Mr Blunkett loudly. "What a man indeed," said Mr Clarke, slightly flustered to find that he was being heckled from two feet behind him.

Later, after a standard bit of party political tub-thumping from Andrew Smith, Mr Blunkett became even more excited, bouncing up and down in his seat and giving Mr Smith an approving thump of such heft that it was audible in the press gallery. The children had disappeared by then, but one can only

hope that they weren't paying too much attention when they were present; otherwise they might have gone away believing, as George

Mudie appears to, that "unequivocal" is a real word, or sharing Peter Pike's view that the phrase "extremely lower" offers an acceptable grammatical role model.

Along the corridor in Committee Room 15, Clare Short was giving evidence to the Select Committee on International Development, most of whom had arrived direct from the airport after a tour of Macedonian refugee camps.

Air Macedonia's fabled in-flight service (three boiled sweets and as much potato brandy as you can drink) had obviously not done much to ease the effects of this unenviable parliamentary excursion - not so

much a "jolly" as a "gloomy". They were in an anxious mood and they wanted the minister to know it.

Very few MPs can handle the intoxicating effects of committee membership, which allows them to indulge their Kavanagh QC fantasies at the expense of those who are more famous, more wealthy or more powerful than themselves. You wonder how those giving evidence keep their temper, particularly when a little learning has been added to the heady cocktail of cross-examination.

Rich in recently acquired expertise, several members set out to educate Ms Short, who has only

been thinking about this matter for the past 35 days. "I would urge you to go away and look at it again," Tess Kingham said sternly at one point, like a teacher disappointed with a pupil's project book.

Ms Short did some urging back, reminding the committee that Macedonia had been making the same predictions of imminent social and economic collapse since the first day of the war. "That doesn't mean it's not true!" yelled one exasperated member, convinced that this time there really was a wolf. It all ended moderately cordially, but only, I suspect, because they'd started late and Ms Short had to leave early.

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

hope that they weren't paying too much attention when they were present; otherwise they might have gone away believing, as George

High Court reinstates Jones as MP

THE LABOUR MP Fiona Jones walked triumphantly back into the House of Commons yesterday after the High Court ruled that she was entitled to resume her parliamentary seat.

In a landmark ruling, the judges concluded that Ms Jones could be reinstated as MP for Newark because of her successful appeal against conviction for expenses fraud.

Lord Justice Kennedy, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell, delivered their judgment in response to a request for clarification of electoral law from John Morris QC, the Attorney General, on behalf of the Speaker of the Commons.

To the cheers of Labour MPs, Ms Jones took her seat in the Commons chamber after the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, declared that the Newark seat was no longer vacant and a by-election would not be held.

Ms Jones ended decades of Tory rule in the Nottinghamshire seat when she gained a majority of just over 3,000 at the last general election. Labour strategists had initially feared

ELECTORAL LAW

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

that a by-election triggered by allegations of "sleaze" would offer the Tories a chance to score a much-needed victory. However, at the end of William Hague's worst fortnight since he became the party leader, even Conservative MPs expressed relief that the by-election would not be held.

Ms Jones, 42, was forced to vacate the seat and ordered to complete 100 hours of community service after she was convicted of election expenses fraud at Nottingham Crown Court last month. The conviction was quashed earlier this month when the High Court ruled that the jury had been misdirected on the scope of the 1983 Representation of the People Act.

Ms Jones and Labour Party officials expected she would be immediately reinstated by the Commons authorities in response to the verdict. However, the Speaker said that as the situation was "unprecedented" it was up to the courts rather than Parliament to rule on reinstatement.

There is no provision in the 1983 Act for reinstatement after a quashed conviction, although Ms Jones's lawyers said that "natural justice" demanded she retake her seat. The key legal issue was whether a by-election should automatically follow the declaration of a seat as vacant, even if the conviction had been overturned. Philip Sales, counsel for Mr Morris, had told the court that "ordinary fairness" would suggest that she should be reinstated.

Outside the court, Ms Jones said she was pleased, but also relieved that the affair was finally over. "It has been a very stressful time for me and my family. I am very grateful to all the people who have written to me, who have never lost faith," she said. "I was very heartened by that. There has been very little feeling of negativity in Newark. But I am looking forward to getting back to resuming my seat."

A spokeswoman for the Labour Party said: "We're very pleased that Fiona Jones has been reinstated following a difficult and uncertain time for her and the people she was elected to represent. With her name now totally cleared, Fiona can get back to work for the people of Newark."

A Tory party spokeswoman

said: "We accepted the earlier court ruling and we also respect today's judgment."

Fraser Kemp, Labour MP for Houghton and Washington East and the party's campaigns manager for the Midlands, said part of him would have relished a by-election after recent turmoil in the Tory party.

Mr Kemp said that the whole affair had proved the need for the Home Office to work with a new electoral commission to clarify confusing laws, which had been designed for Victorian times rather than the 21st century.

Ms Jones, who arrived in the Commons chamber flanked by the government whip Graham Allen, made her first comments during a debate on development on green-belt land.

To cheers, she said: "Can I just take a very welcome opportunity on behalf of my constituents in Newark to say that I welcome the proposals that the Government are putting forward, and I would like to say that all my constituents, I know, welcome the fact that the Govern-

ment will build on brownfield sites instead of greenfield sites."

Nick Raynsford, Environment minister, said: "I'm delighted to know that at the first opportunity [Ms Jones] is back here speaking for her constituents."

The full, detailed reasons for the High Court's decision in Ms Jones's favour will be revealed in open court today.



An exultant Fiona Jones, MP for Newark, returning to the Commons yesterday after the High Court ruled in her favour. Peter Macdiarmid

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Information Bill 'more radical than expected'

THE FREEDOM of Information Bill will be more liberal than expected and will require greater disclosures by Whitehall departments, government agencies and public services, including the police.

Critics including the former minister David Clark, who have been campaigning for a radical right to information, feared that it would be watered down in behind-the-scenes cabinet battles between the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. But Whitehall sources said yesterday that when the draft Bill is published within the next few weeks, it will be sur-

OPEN GOVERNMENT

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

prisingly liberal. "The campaigners will be happier than they thought," said a source.

The row has centred on the so-called "harm" test for the release of information. When Mr Clark left the Cabinet Office, he was proposing that information should be released unless it could cause "substantial harm". That was supported by Lord Irvine, but was rejected by Mr Straw, who wanted a simple "harm" test, which would have made it more difficult to obtain information.

Mr Straw, who attended a further cabinet sub-committee on the Bill yesterday at Downing Street, has suggested that an independent commissioner should decide whether information should be released.

Although the Bill will be released for consultation in mid-May, the legislation will form the centrepiece of the Queen's Speech for the next session of Parliament, which was discussed yesterday by the Cabinet.

The legislative programme is also likely to contain a big transport Bill by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to allow congestion charging on motorists to curb car use in

town and cities, and a possible Home Office measure to reform the voting system for local elections to allow polling to take place in high streets at weekends, to raise voter interest in town halls.

The Queen's Speech may also be used to put on the statute book three Bills that have been delayed in draft but have been delayed by the row in the Lords over the removal of hereditary peers from the Upper House. The Bills will establish a Strategic Rail Authority, create the Food Standards Agency and set up standards boards to root out sleaze in local councils.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

11,000 animal experiments

MORE THAN 11,000 experiments involving animals were done at Ministry of Defence sites last year, the Government disclosed.

Fireworks Bill

A BACKBENCH Bill to impose a ban on the sale of fireworks at all times to the general public will be introduced in the Commons next month, Sir Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Rochford and Southend East, said.

Short cuts

SOME COURSES at further education colleges could be cut by 15 minutes, to remain just under 16 hours a week, which would allow hard-up students to get round social security rules and claim benefits, the Education minister George Mudie hinted.

Barristers' wigs face the cut in court reforms

THE ABOLITION of wigs in court and the end of the pre-eminent status of Queen's Counsel came into prospect yesterday when a Labour MP secured government agreement to introduce a series of amendments to the Access to Justice Bill.

The proposals offer the Government a compromise deal that also includes plans to establish a register of interests for judges.

Andrew Dismore, the solicitor MP behind the amendments, said they gave the Government the ideal opportunity to modernise other parts of the justice system. He said: "Queen's Counsel are an expensive anachronism working in the interests of the lawyers, not the public. Radical reform is needed or they should be abolished."

Lord Irvine of Lairg is unlikely to agree to the abolition of QCs, as one of Mr Dismore's amendments requires, but the Government could agree to the relaxation of court dress and a

JUSTICE BILL

By ROBERT VEREBAIK
Legal Affairs Correspondent

reduction in the use of QCs. The Lord Chancellor himself has complained of the ceremonial dress he must wear in the House of Lords. Solicitor advocates, who can now appear in the higher courts alongside barristers, have long complained that wigs allow the jury unfairly to distinguish between them.

This week Mr Dismore failed to secure answers to questions from the Government on the extent and cost of using QCs in government work. In written answers neither the Solicitor General, Ross Cranston, nor the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, were able to tell Mr Dismore how many QCs were used by their respective government offices.

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department said: "The Lord Chancellor has no plans to abolish QCs, which he regards as a kitemark of quality within the legal profession."

THE HOUSE



Action to aid the art market

THE GOVERNMENT is making "very vigorous" representations to the EU in the interests of the British art market amid concern over the planned harmonisation of VAT, the Employment minister Andrew Smith said.

Pizza protest

LABOUR BACKBENCHERS demanded a debate after reports that the Pizza Hut restaurant chain had withdrawn late-night taxis for staff as part of its opposition to the national minimum wage.

Today's agenda

Commons: 9.30am: Protection of Children Bill, report. Energy Conservation (Housing) Bill, second reading. Short debate on assisted area status for Southend. Lords: Not sitting.

Lobbyist gifts are banned for Scots

MEMBERS OF the Scottish Parliament are to be barred from taking lobbyists' cash or gifts under new rules far stricter than those in Westminster.

The move comes as lobbying companies prepare to cash in on devolution. Many big London-based firms now have offices in Edinburgh and Cardiff, and several indigenous companies have also sprung up.

Several Edinburgh law firms have set up lobbying arms, hoping to make money by drafting amendments to legislation on behalf of commercial clients.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, a former Conservative deputy leader in the House of Lords and a Scottish Office and industry minister in the last government, is chairman of the newly formed Holyrood Strategy (Scotland). The Liberal Democrats' federal treasurer, Denis Robertson Sullivan, is managing director of PS Public Affairs.

But while Westminster MPs are allowed to take on consultancies with lobbying firms, their Scottish counterparts will be told that such positions are "inappropriate". In Wales the rules will reflect those at Westminster, where such interests must merely be registered.

The conclusions of a working group on rules for Scottish Parliament members, expected to be approved by the Parliament, says MSPs should be barred from taking fees not only from commercial lobbyists but also from PR firms or lawyers who are pressing for particular policies.

The code of conduct "should be a powerful tool in discouraging MSPs and lobbyists from participating in irregular activities", the working group said. "We consider that it is inappropriate for any MSP to receive payment in cash or kind

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

from any firm engaged in lobbying on a commercial basis." Some lobbyists and politicians believe the group should have introduced compulsory registration for lobbying firms. They would then have to sign up to rules likely to bar them from offering cash to politicians for favours or from appointing politicians to their boards, as the existing voluntary code does.

Robbie MacDuff, managing director of Strategy in Scotland, the Edinburgh branch of the English lobbying firm Westminster Strategy, said it was "naive" to think lobbyists could regulate themselves. "I don't think Scotland is so special that it will work here when it doesn't work in London," he said. "In an industry where people are chums, there are too many temptations."

Mr MacDuff questioned whether members of the House of Lords should be allowed to work for Scottish lobbying firms. In England, peers must declare their lobbying interests.

Lord Sempill, a hereditary peer who runs Holyrood Strategy (Scotland), chaired by Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, defended his right to be in the business. The peers were told that they did not need to register their interest in the House of Lords' register of members' interests.

Lord Sempill is standing as a Conservative for the Scottish Parliament but does not expect to win. "Quite frankly, I have to have a career. I think we clearly understand amongst ourselves in the fraternity that there is a conflict of interests in holding an active role in a public affairs company and at the same time being part of the political process," he said.



Wendy Alexander canvassing voters on the streets of Paisley, Strathclyde, yesterday before next week's Scottish elections

David Rose

Labour's First Lady hides her endearing charm from voters

BY FRAN ABRAMS

WENDY ALEXANDER is a woman in a hurry. She has three campaign visits, two newspaper interviews and a photocall at the local printers to fit in before dashing to Perth for a TV encounter with Kirsty Wark. She seems more than up to the job, though.

The candidate tipped to be finance minister of the Scottish Parliament - and even First Minister after Donald Dewar throws in the towel of office - gusts into her Paisley North campaign office in full throttle. Mary Miller, her election manager and an old friend from Glasgow University, has already confessed to buying her a car set for her mobile phone so she can keep talking at 300 words a minute even while driving. Almost before the Keir Hardy

pin-up on the wall has stopped fluttering in her breeze she is apologising for her trousers, which are a marginally different colour from her jacket. Fishing a needle and thread from her bag she explains that she has been overtaken by a hem crisis. Sadly the voting public will see few of Wendy Alexander's more endearing qualities unless they meet her in person.

Three days earlier at Labour's morning press conference she appeared with her brother Douglas, Scottish election campaign manager, former adviser to Gordon Brown and Westminster MP for Paisley South. Both were immaculate in navy, with pristine white collars, and both performed as

if they had just completed a crash course at the Millbank Tower School of Careful But Firm Enunciation. In person she is infinitely more charming, despite a reputation for a fearsome intellect and a somewhat brusque manner. The latter she attributes to a determination to turn Scots into legislators; the former she seems to fail to recognise. Ms Miller says when her friend launches into a verbal screed on macro-economic policy she really thinks everyone follows her drift.

The only time a touch of the Millbanks creeps in is when she is asked about her relationship with her brother - some newspapers have suggested it is competitive. "We are a family. We are not a dynasty. We get on very well," she said.

Brusque or no, this diminutive 35-year-old possesses a terrifying CV. The daughter of a Church of Scotland minister and a haematologist, she joined Labour at 15, clocked up a degree from Glasgow, a master's from Warwick, slipped in six months' research for the MP George Galloway and ran an economic development magazine for a year before going to work for Donald Dewar, then Labour's Scottish spokesman, at 25.

Then, in 1992, "I thought we were going to be so awfully equipped for government that I needed to learn to be a civil servant so I applied to do management at Harvard", she said. "We lost the election so appealingly and I felt I didn't want to spend my time being an academic. So I deferred it and went

to Insead in Paris." Between 1994 and 1997 she worked for the American consultants Booz, Allen, Hamilton where her boss had helped to get Bill Clinton elected. Then on 2 May 1997, Donald Dewar called to say she had already missed her first meeting as his special adviser. After 18 months making plans for the new Parliament she resigned to stand in the area where she went to school.

But Wendy Alexander is still not at all sure she will make a politician. She says she can see herself packing it in for something else, perhaps running a small voluntary organisation. "I'm deeply ambivalent about it... I've worked behind the scenes for 20 years and I've seen the toll politics takes on people," she said.



CAMPAIGNS BRIEFING 6 DAYS TO GO

AN OPINION poll for The Herald newspaper showed Labour's lead over the Scottish National Party has fallen. The poll predicts 55 seats for Labour, 48 for the SNP, Lib Dems 15 and Tories 11. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said the party was on course for victory.

THE SURGE in support for the SNP was greeted with attacks from the other parties. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said the SNP's "anti-enterprise" policies would be paid for with jobs, tax rises and business risks. The Liberal Democrats spotted a £87m "black hole" in Mr Salmond's spending plans that could only be filled by tax rises or spending cuts. And Scottish Tories claimed an independent Scotland would face a £10bn deficit.

NATIONAL PARTY leaders join the campaigns today. Tony Blair is in Glasgow to visit a school and attend a charity lunch before flying to Wales. William Hague will be in Edinburgh.

RIVALRY BETWEEN the two most senior figures in the Welsh Labour Party resurfaced yesterday over performance-related pay for teachers. Alun Michael, the party leader, said he strongly supported incentives, a policy opposed by Rhodri Morgan, who lost the battle for the top job. Mr Morgan's views were reinforced by the Wales TUC, which voted unanimously to oppose the pay scheme. It is one of the few policy areas where the Assembly may be able to undermine its independence from Westminster, by sticking with the present system.

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HALIFAX

HOW PEOPLE FIND SOLACE FROM THE BOX

**Blind Date**

"In 1994 I collapsed from exhaustion. I was also unemployed and I began to watch programmes I would never have watched before, like *Blind Date*."

46-year-old unemployed female teacher

**EastEnders and Coronation Street**

"I feel guilty at watching *EastEnders* or *Coronation Street* as I tend to ignore my son. He says I stop him playing when they come on and this makes me feel guilty."

34-year-old female clerical officer

**Kilroy**

"I have changed jobs from being a poorly paid hospital chef, to being a better paid caterer. In the old days I did shift work and watched things like *Kilroy*."

40-year-old self-employed male caterer

**Neighbours**

"*Neighbours* and *Home and Away* are as nice and easy to chew as my tea, which I eat while I watch them. It's my wind-down hour after work."

35-year-old male factory worker

Hermit to teach survival skills

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN
Scotland Correspondent

A HERMIT who spent 20 years living in woods in central Scotland had his sentence for a series of thefts deferred yesterday after he agreed to teach others his survival skills.

Robert Sinclair, 51, nicknamed "Davy Crockett" because of his extraordinary skills in the wild, had pleaded guilty to break-ins across central Scotland, stealing food, clothes and alcohol from caravans and farmhouses.

His thefts were to support his lifestyle, which involved living in barns, makeshift shelters and hollows in the woods.

At one stage, police on horseback were introduced in an attempt to find the pony-tailed loner.

Sinclair's sentencing was deferred for four months yesterday after Stirling Sheriff Court was told he was now going to teach others his outdoor survival skills. He has also been collecting food and clothes for Kosovo refugees.

John McInnes, Sinclair's defence agent, said he was keen to pass on the skills that he had learnt during the past 20 years spent surviving on his wits in the hills and woods of Stirlingshire.

Since being captured, Sinclair has had difficulties adjusting. When he signed on for benefits and was given a £40 crisis loan, it was the first time since the 1970s that he had had money in his pocket. At one point he attempted suicide because he could not cope with the changes.

Yesterday, however, Mr McInnes said Sinclair was settling down and would be taking young people on walking trips to Glencoe.

After the hearing, Sinclair, who has a City and Guilds in horticulture, said: "What I want to do now is grow some strawberries. I couldn't do any gardening when I was in the wild."



Robert Sinclair: Admitted series of thefts *Newsflash*

Viewers 'pig out on TV' when they feel low – and then suffer remorse

TELEVISION IS A crutch used by people for support through hard times and which they feel guilty about over-exploiting, says the biggest study of viewing habits done in the UK.

The study, *TV Living*, also explodes two myths of television viewing – that men do not watch soap operas and that they are in charge of what is watched. It found that people watch more television and more low-quality television when they are depressed or

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media News Editor

poor compared with when they are happy and successful.

Those who are feeling good tend to pre-select "quality" programmes that they really want to see rather than simply watching anything that is on.

TV Living, which was sponsored by the British Film Institute and three television companies, gave diaries to 500 people so they could track their

lives and their viewing between 1991 and 1996. "We found quite radical changes in how people used television according to what was happening to their lives," said one of the study's authors, David Gauntlett.

"There was one middle-class teacher who during the period of the study got divorced, became unemployed and had a breakdown. She went from choosing specific programmes to watching things such as *Blind Date* and *Beadle's About*.

But when people start new relationships or move to a new area they tend to watch less television and be more selective when they do," added Mr Gauntlett who is a lecturer in social communications at the University of Leeds.

"It is as if TV is a stress reliever, a comforter and a friend. When they regain their security or happiness, television becomes less important."

People control their viewing because they feel guilty that

time spent watching television is wasted. Watching during the day brought out deep-seated feelings of guilt among all those who took part in the study. "People told us that television during the day isn't very good," said Mr Gauntlett. "They find it patronising and said it was aimed at housewives. Even housewives said that."

Because of the detailed nature of the diaries, the study found, for the first time, that men enjoy and watch soap

operas just as much as women. "In the past, it's been thought there was some innate quality to soap opera, the family-based storylines perhaps, which made them attractive to women. But men get just as involved in their favourite soaps," said Mr Gauntlett.

The study also discovered that men do not exert power in the home by choosing programmes. Instead choices are mostly negotiated: "It's just that the man tends to keep a

grip on the remote control," said Mr Gauntlett. "That may have some kind of phallic power, but which button is pushed is usually agreed."

Other findings of the study included the fact that few people had a problem with nudity and sex on television per se. Instead they objected to it being shown because they tend to believe that sex is special and is demeaned by the medium.

Leading article.
Review, page 3

Dixons

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IN BRIEF

Four killed in aircraft crash

A FATHER, son and two friends, all businessmen, were killed yesterday when their light aircraft nose-dived into a field in North Yorkshire and burst into flames. The pilot, Gerald Davin, 42, his father, Laurence, and friends Paul Blackburn and Kenneth Moore had just taken off from Sherburn Aero Club on their way to Amsterdam.

Woman died after breast surgery

A TEENAGER embarrassed because one breast was three times the size of the other died after deciding to have surgery. A verdict of misadventure was recorded yesterday on Abigail Stevenage, 18, of Kidderminster, operated on at Wordsley Hospital, West Midlands, in December.

Students deny IRA bomb plot

TWO STUDENTS joined an IRA plot to bomb targets on the mainland after last year's Good Friday Agreement. An Old Bailey court was told. Liam Grogan, 22, and Darren Mulholland, 20, deny conspiracy with Anthony Hyland, 26, to cause explosions last summer. The trial continues today.

Cadbury bars GM ingredients

THE CHOCOLATE maker Cadbury became the latest UK food producer to declare a ban on genetically modified ingredients yesterday. Cadbury's announcement follows statements this week from Unilever, Nestle and Tesco.

Burglars fail in Brown break-in

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, was urged yesterday to step up security after his kitchen window in North Queensferry, Fife, was broken in an attempted burglary.

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MARKS & SPENCER

'Holistic' children can fight allergies



Children at a Steiner school. A medical study suggests they are at lower risk of developing common childhood allergies *Brighton Argus*

CHILDREN BROUGHT up in a holistic community, eschewing Western-style drugs and vaccinations and eating a vegetarian diet, have a 40 per cent lower risk of developing allergies such as asthma and hay fever.

The finding, from a study of almost 300 children who followed the anthroposophic lifestyle advocated by the Swedish spiritual leader Rudolf Steiner, adds to evidence that aspects of modern lifestyles are to blame for the startling rise in allergies around the world in the past 20 to 30 years.

One in three children in industrialised countries has an allergic disorder in what is now recognised to be a modern epidemic. Asthma, hay fever and eczema are the commonest allergies. They have more than doubled in recent decades but experts remain baffled by the extent and speed of their rise.

Pollution, infection and changes to the diet have been suggested as causes but hard evidence has been lacking. A growing body of evidence is pointing to the cleanliness associated with modern lifestyles,

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

which protects children from bacteria and infection but at the same time prevents them developing natural resistance, as the principal cause.

In the latest study, published in *The Lancet*, 295 children aged 5 to 13 attending Rudolf Steiner schools near Stockholm, Sweden, were compared with 380 children of the same age at neighbouring schools. Tests showed the Steiner children had 38 per cent less atopy (sensitivity to allergic triggers such as pollen or house-dust mites) than the others.

Only half the Steiner children had ever taken antibiotics and just 18 per cent had had the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination compared with over 90 per cent of children in the other schools. Almost two-thirds of the Steiner children ate fermented vegetables, containing live lactobacilli also found in some yoghurts said to aid digestion, compared with less than 5 per cent at the other schools.

Dr Johan Alm and colleagues from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm suggest that their finding could help to account for the recent rapid rise in allergies. They say: "Lifestyle factors related to the anthroposophic way of life appear to

lessen the risk of atopic disease in childhood. Since that way of life involves several characteristics that were more common in the general population some decades ago, our study may help to explain the recent increase in atopy."

In a commentary, Professor David Strachan of St George's Hospital Medical School, London, says the Swedish study adds to evidence that allergies are less common in people with simple lifestyles. However, he says the value of the study is limited because it is impossible to gauge the relative importance of the various lifestyle features - diet, incomplete immunisation (Steiner children tend to have vaccinations only against tetanus and polio and to have them later than officially recommended), and restricted use of antibiotics.

The strongest evidence shows that children in large families, exposed to many infections at a young age, are less likely to develop allergies than children from smaller families raised in "cleaner" environments. Professor Strachan says the "hygiene hypothesis" remains the best "because it offers a unifying explanation for the striking variations in prevalence of allergic disease".

Leading article.
Review, page 2

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|---|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| white skin that burns easily and tends not to tan | Low | Med | High | High | High | High |
| white skin that tans easily | Low | Low | Med | Med | High | High |
| brown skin | Low | Low | Low | Med | Med | Med |
| black skin | Low | Low | Low | Low | Med | Med |

Sun warnings factored into weather news

ALL WEATHER forecasts are to include advice on the strength of the sun's rays in an attempt to reduce the number of deaths caused by skin cancer.

Sun worshippers need to be aware of the health risks involved in being exposed to ultraviolet rays and make their own assessment according to their skin type, experts say. Each year, more than 40,000 people are diagnosed with skin cancer, and 2,000 die of it.

"We see this as a very important tool in the Government's drive to cut preventable deaths from cancer," said the Health minister Tessa Jowell yesterday. Ms Jowell said educating young people about the risks was particularly difficult. "What 17-year-old girl does not believe she looks more attractive with a tan than without one?"

The index will feature on all television, radio and newspaper weather forecasts during the summer months, from May until September. It was originally developed by the World Health Organisation and clas-

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

sifies UV radiation on a numerical scale from one to 20.

The index also identifies four skin types: white that burns easily, white that tans easily, brown and black. "On a sunny, summer day in Blackpool the Solar UV index could be six," said Christopher New, of the Health Education Authority. "For a person with a fair skin that burns easily their risk of sun damage is very high and they would have to think seriously about protecting themselves."

Meteorological experts said people should be aware that even on cloudy days the levels of UV radiation can be high.

"Big white fluffy clouds can reflect UV radiation in the same way snow does," said Karl Kitchen, a senior manager at the Meteorological Office. "The new solar index includes the effect of cloud on sunshine intensity, helping everyone make an informed decision about protecting themselves this summer."

PHILIP HENSHER



Schadenfreude is a big bad motive in the human character

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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Presidents Nelson Mandela and Boris Yeltsin exchanging kisses at a meeting in Moscow yesterday Reuters

Bin Laden 'plans base in Somalia'

THE SAUDI millionaire Osama bin Laden has checked out Somalia, being a state without a government, as a transit point or safe haven, say US State Department sources.

Mr bin Laden is the chief suspect of the US embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania last August, which claimed up to 250 lives.

The sources say Mr bin Laden has visited Somalia, and a "secure communication system" is being set up by his men in southern Somalia, possibly at the coastal town of Ras Kamboni, near Kenya. He went missing from his base camp in Afghanistan on February 13, and reports said he was heading for Somalia, Sudan or Yemen.

In early April, sources said US security officers were in Ras Kamboni, investigating the 20 March fatal shooting of a US aid worker, Deena Umbarger, in a tea shop by Islamic extremists. Ras Kamboni is known as a fundamentalist "no-go" area, used by the Al Itihad movement, which has long been linked to Mr bin Laden.

A US diplomat said members of Al Itihad had refused to hand over the identified killers, and US pressure on the local clan to afford some sort of retribution led to fighting last week. Armed groups of fundamentalists fled across the

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Mogadishu



Osama bin Laden: A \$5m reward for his capture

Kenyan border. Somalia was abandoned by the international community after a US-led military intervention in 1992-93 failed to find a political solution, and resulted in the deaths of US troops, humanitarian workers and hundreds of Somalis.

The country is isolated from the world and without a government, now with almost nothing to offer its impoverished citizens - no public services, no ministries or civil servants, no border air or coast controls, no immigration procedures, virtually no communications network, no national security forces and no national intelligence.

Somalia's state without a

government has caused increasing anxiety, especially since the embassy bombings. Some 500 FBI agents investigated the bombs, and pointed to a terrorist cell operating in Nairobi and Mombasa, founded by Mr bin Laden in 1993. The US is helping Kenya to tighten international security, particularly on the porous Somali border and the coastline.

Whispered rumours of Mr bin Laden's presence are rife in Somalia, inside and outside Mogadishu. But they initially received little serious attention: why go to a place where anarchy offers no security to a man with a US \$5m reward on his head?

If international terrorists are looking for state protection, Somalia certainly appears a poor option. Two recently allied Somali faction leaders tenuously control the destroyed capital, Mogadishu, and tension and fighting continues in some areas of southern Somalia. There is not much left of the original Somali state, with two regions, Somaliland and Puntland, declaring independence.

Mr bin Laden would be unlikely to risk asking for the protection of any one faction leader, in view of the shifting alliances.

But Louis Freeh, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the US Senate in

February: "Loosely affiliated extremists" such as Mr bin Laden "may pose the most urgent threat because [they] bring together groups on an ad hoc, temporary basis". Their strength, he says, is in not maintaining a rigid, organisational structure, and in having a high degree of mobility.

So Somalia's total absence of state structures may be useful. And Somalia has changed since the 1991-94 years of political anarchy. In Mogadishu there is a new boom in private business because of relative security and the no-holds-barred war economy, financing the warlords. The business tsars, strongly linked to the Arab States and private Islamic banks, call the shots.

One faction leader, Hussein Aided, son of the notorious General Mohamed Aided who took on US forces, said he had told US officials that Mr bin Laden or his henchmen may be in southern Somalia, in the Gedo region, but were unlikely to be in Mogadishu. He said only an international investigation could throw up more definite information.

Diplomatic sources say the State Department has told Hussein Aided that the US citizenship of his family would be revoked if there was any proven co-operation with Al Itihad, or any known terrorist.

Israeli fights election on corruption stand

IN A MOVE likely to worsen the deep tribal tensions in Israel, Aryeh Deri, the leader of the Shas party, is to fight the 17 May election on the issue of his innocence of a charge of bribery, for which he has been sentenced to four years in prison. In a videotape, hundreds of thousands of copies of which are to be distributed by Shas, Israel's third biggest party, Mr Deri says he was framed by "the elites" in a plot intended to destroy him and his party. He is still free while he appeals against the sentence, passed earlier this month, for taking \$155,000 (£98,000) in bribes. Supporters of Shas are mainly poor, religious Jews

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

whose families came originally from North Africa and the Middle East. They resent the wealth, secular traditions and grip on power of the Ashkenazi (Jews of European origin).

On the tape Mr Deri says: "There is a group in the State of Israel which feels that this country belongs to it. [This group] decided to establish a secular state in which it is forbidden to mention Torah, Judaism and the Sabbath."

He called on supporters to vote for Shas to protest against the effort "to kill Deri and to eliminate Shas". It is unclear if

Mr Deri's attempt to portray himself as a martyr will succeed outside the hard core of Shas supporters. But he and his party think it will and in the past they have proved good judges of the mood among Israelis originating in the Middle East.

Shas is also fighting to keep control of the Interior Ministry, once headed by Mr Deri, against the claims of Yisrael Ba'aliyah, the main Russian immigrant party. Shas needs the ministry because it sets municipal budgets, while the Russians want it because it determines which immigrants are accepted as Jews.

Leading article, Review, page 3

IN BRIEF

Boy bids £17m in Internet auction
THE PARENTS of 13-year-old Andrew Tyler of New Jersey were in a state of panic after he placed £1.75m in bids at Internet auctions. The doctor's son offered £312,000 for a Van Gogh, £21,000 for a replica of a Viking ship, and £75,000 for a vintage Superman comic book. He successfully "bought" a £15,000 Corvette and a £250,000 bedroom suite that once belonged to John McDonald, Canada's first prime minister. But because Andrew is a minor, the sales on the eBay site are invalid.

Nigeria to rejoin Commonwealth
COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN ministers recommended yesterday that Nigeria's three-year suspension from the 54-nation grouping be lifted. The decision means that Nigeria's full membership is virtually certain to be restored by May 29, when the country's President-elect, Olusegun Obasanjo, is due to take office. Nigeria, then under military rule, was suspended in 1996 after it executed nine minority rights activists.

EU urges Uganda to spare lives
THE EUROPEAN Union has urged Uganda's government in a letter to President Yoweri Museveni to spare the lives of 29 prisoners due to be executed this week, officials at the German embassy in the capital, Kampala, said yesterday. The 28 prisoners, who are on death row for crimes ranging from murder to aggravated robbery, were to be put to death by hanging last night or today, but Mr Museveni has the power to have the sentence commuted.



'Duch': Confront killer

Torturer may not face trial

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

THE DISCOVERY in Cambodia of one of the former Khmer Rouge government's most infamous torturers is putting further pressure on the authorities to bring to trial those accused of genocide.

Not a single member of the "Killing Fields" regime has faced trial since it was overthrown by Vietnam in 1979.

Yesterday the Hong Kong based Far Eastern Economic Review magazine published an interview with Kang Kek Ieu, 56, better known as "Duch," who was the director of the Tuol Sleng detention centre where at least 16,000 people were tortured.

In the interview he says he is remorseful about his past, has converted to Christianity and is ready to stand trial. The authorities have indicated that they will take action but are in no hurry to do so.

Vann Nath, 53, one of seven survivors of Tuol Sleng, said he lived in terror of the chain-smoking Duch. "He was the most powerful man there. I was scared to see his face. Every day I heard people screaming when Duch's men tortured them," he said.

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Film industry: Robert De Niro and Miramax plan ambitious movie complex on site of Brooklyn's old Naval Yards

New York studios to rival Hollywood



De Niro wants to bring Hollywood to the Big Apple

By DAVID USBORNE
in New York

THE ACTOR Robert De Niro has emerged as the force behind an ambitious plan to build a huge studio and sound-stage complex in the empty Navy Yards of Brooklyn, which could give New York film production facilities to rival the biggest and most famous in Hollywood.

The Brooklyn studios would help to speed the shift of the film industry's centre of gravity from southern California. A letter of intent to begin construction could be signed by Mr De Niro and his partners with New York's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, on Monday.

Mr De Niro, who heads the tiny TriBeCa Productions, approached the city with his proposals six months ago, then teamed up with Harvey Weinstein, flamboyant chief of Miramax Films, also based in New York, and still basking in the Oscar triumphs of *Shakespeare in Love*.

They plan to build 12 sound stages costing \$140m (£90m) on a 15-acre site in the middle of the yards, in a rough area of Brooklyn across the East River from the southeastern tip of Manhattan.

The studios would hardly



The view from the once-bustling Brooklyn Navy Yards in New York, where Miramax's Harvey Weinstein (left) and Robert De Niro plan to build a dozen sound stages

make up for the 70,000 jobs provided in the heyday of the shipyards - once the biggest in America - but they would bring new employment and prestige to an area of New York that has been largely forgotten.

"This is the equivalent of a Universal Studio, where they could shoot a whole movie from start to finish," one source told *The New York Times*. "If this is a success it could revitalise the whole area."

New York has become the darling location for many Hollywood directors. Thanks to

generous tax-break packages offered by Mayor Giuliani and other gestures of hospitality - the turning over of whole neighbourhoods for shoots, day and night, for example - Hollywood has been migrating to New York more and more often, especially for urban, outdoor sequences.

It is a phenomenon, spurred also by the recent drop in crime in the city, that has begun to test the patience of some New York residents. Roam the streets of Manhattan on almost any day and you are likely to find some

form of film production going on somewhere, drawing hordes of gawkers - if stars are involved - and fouling traffic.

Last year alone, the industry pumped \$2.6bn into the city's economy, paying for crews, lighting, catering, hotel rooms and so forth. The number of feature films shot, or partially shot, in New York soared to 221 from 69 in 1993. There has been a similar jump in the numbers of television shows made in the city, as well as a rise in related activities, including commercial and music video production.

Industry insiders warn that the De Niro-Miramax project still faces many hurdles, not least over financing. So far Mr De Niro and Mr Weinstein are believed to have secured about \$70m, half from private backers and half from city and state funding. But a further \$80m or so must be found.

A possible saviour may be the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, which is studying the plans. "We're taking a hard look at it," said one official from Union Life. "It's clear that New York doesn't have

enough studios to handle both television and film production that could take place there. What's unclear to us is exactly what types of studios should be there - film or television - and where they should be."

The Navy Yards hardly seems the most hospitable spot for limousine-stars who like to be pampered. It is not in Manhattan, and the surrounding neighbourhood, though empty of the brothels that used to thrive there, is not exactly Beverly Hills. Donald Trump, the legendary New York developer,

was quick to join the fray yesterday, proposing an alternative site on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

The now-derelict Navy Yards were at their pinnacle during the Second World War when ship-workers toiled round the clock to produce warships, aircraft carriers and auxiliary vessels for the Allied campaign. Among the great ships launched there was the USS *Missouri*. The yard began to atrophy after 1960, when a fire ravaged the aircraft carrier *Constellation*, killing 50 people.



L.A. SUNSET?

THE NEW joint venture between Miramax and De Niro is just the latest sign that film production is gravitating away from its traditional home in southern California.

Hollywood's main attractions - the expertise of local crews, the cost benefits of shooting on the back lots of the studios financing the films, and great weather - are all becoming less compelling as the industry becomes more mobile, more advanced and much more money conscious.

For years, southern California has slowly been pricing itself out of the market. Real estate has become so inflated that many studios have either sold off their back lots to property developers or adapted them to other uses, notably television productions.

The Fox lot in west Los Angeles, for example, was sold off in the 1970s and turned into the Century City office and shopping complex, familiar to fans of the original *Die Hard* movie. With costs spiralling for top-line stars and marketing, studios have tried to squeeze "below the line" costs, such as equipment rentals and wages for crews. Union representation for camera and lighting operators has eroded as studios threaten to take productions elsewhere.

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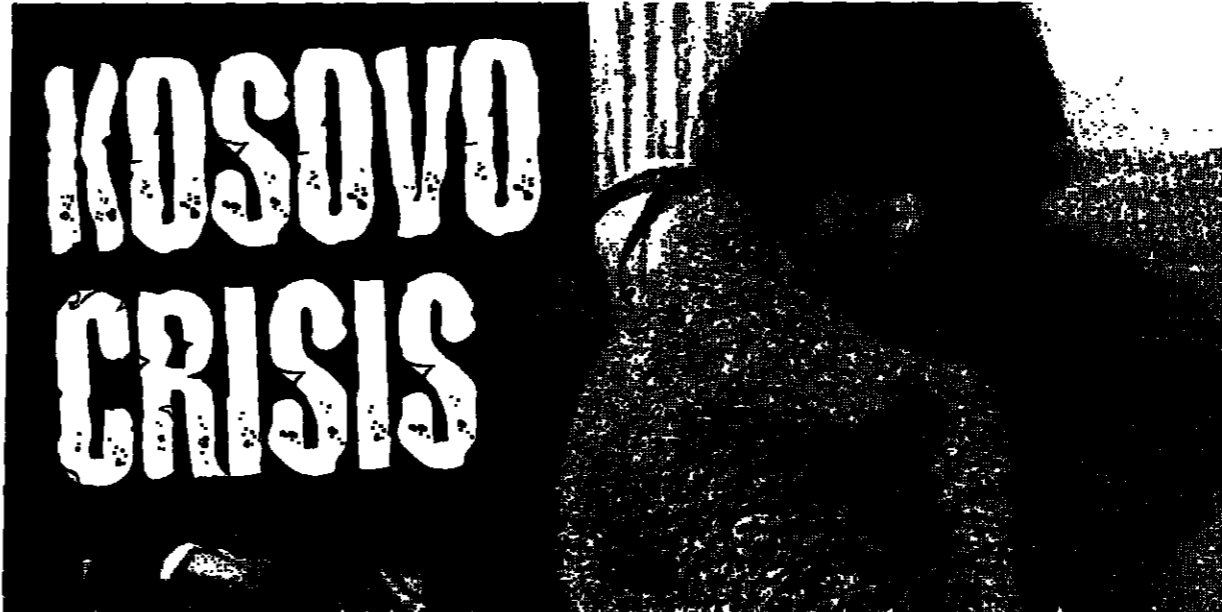
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THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 30 April 1999

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
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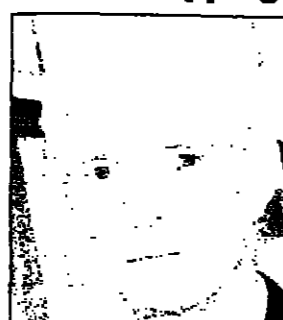
BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Unigate victorious in Terranova bid

UNIGATE LAST night emerged victorious in its bid for control of Terranova, after the board of the chilled foods group agreed to recommend Unigate's higher bid to its shareholders. On Wednesday, Unigate raised its offer from 125p to 150p valuing Terranova - which was spun off from Hillsdown last year - at £274m. Unigate then went into the market securing 29.9 per cent of the company, the maximum allowed by the City takeover code. That, together with the backing of Phillips & Drew, gave it control of 48.6 per cent of Terranova's shares.

Home shopping service expands



OPEN, the former British Interactive Broadcasting, announced that WH Smith, the high street retailer, Manchester United football club, and the travel agency Going Places are to join its new entertainment and home shopping service to be launched this autumn.

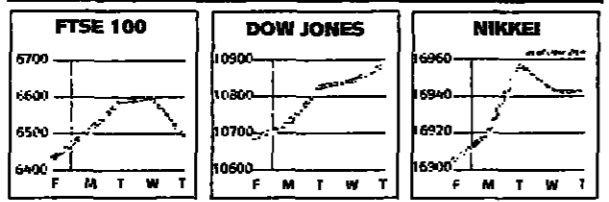
Other big brand signings announced yesterday include Abbey National, Yellow Pages, and PA, the UK news agency. Content providers previously announced include Argos, Dixons, Iceland and Woolworths. Richard Handover (pictured), the WH Smith chief executive who earlier this week announced a new free Internet service, said: "This will be a further step as we continue to build on the strength of the WH Smith brand."

Investment, page 21

BAT chairman attacks health treaty

BAT CHAIRMAN Martin Broughton said yesterday that the World Health Organisation had been hijacked by "zealots" in its attempt to impose the world's first public health treaty by 2003. "The WHO seems to have been hijacked by zealots in its desire to set itself up as some sort of super-nanny," he told investors attending the company's annual meeting in London. BAT reported first-quarter pre-tax profits of £309m, which beat expectations. Shares soared 39p to close at 544p.

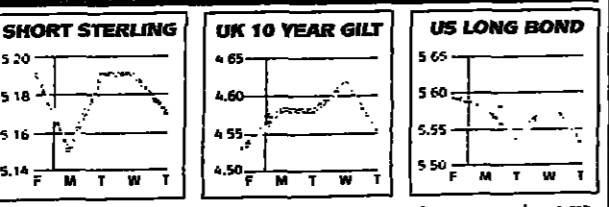
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

| Index | Close | Change | Change (%) | 52 wk high | 52 wk low | Yield (%) |
|-----------------|----------|---------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100 | 5497.60 | -101.20 | -1.83 | 6635.90 | 4599.20 | 2.45 |
| FTSE 250 | 5816.60 | 2.90 | 0.05 | 5970.90 | 4247.60 | 3.08 |
| FTSE 350 | 3100.90 | -40.60 | -1.29 | 3156.30 | 2210.40 | 2.55 |
| FTSE All Share | 3004.86 | -36.98 | -1.22 | 3055.08 | 2143.53 | 2.42 |
| FTSE SmallCap | 2557.20 | 9.40 | 0.37 | 2723.80 | 1834.20 | 4.04 |
| FTSE Fledgling | 1389.20 | 2.20 | 0.16 | 1517.10 | 1046.20 | 3.38 |
| FTSE AIM | 947.40 | 0.90 | 0.09 | 1146.90 | 761.30 | 1.06 |
| FTSE Europe 100 | 3043.06 | -20.92 | -0.69 | 3079.27 | 2018.15 | 1.81 |
| FTSE Europe 300 | 1316.25 | -10.78 | -0.81 | 1335.14 | 880.63 | 1.86 |
| Dow Jones | 10891.56 | 44.96 | 0.42 | 10935.37 | 7400.30 | 1.48 |
| Nikkei | 16442.24 | -15.03 | -0.09 | 17055.06 | 12787.90 | 0.74 |
| Hang Seng | 13179.20 | 66.31 | 0.51 | 13623.85 | 8544.29 | 2.68 |
| Dax | 5339.42 | -14.19 | -0.27 | 6217.83 | 3833.71 | 1.54 |
| S&P 500 | 1347.26 | -3.75 | -0.28 | 1371.67 | 823.32 | 1.19 |
| Nasdaq | 2511.54 | -37.72 | -1.48 | 2677.76 | 1357.09 | 0.29 |
| Toronto 300 | 7098.40 | -3.57 | -0.05 | 7787.00 | 5320.90 | 1.47 |
| Brazil Bovespa | 11129.36 | 2.32 | 0.02 | 11826.67 | 4575.69 | 3.13 |
| Belgium Be100 | 3233.43 | -2.72 | -0.08 | 3713.21 | 2696.26 | 1.78 |
| Amsterdam AEX | 373.52 | -2.01 | -0.54 | 400.65 | 356.58 | 1.81 |
| France CAC 40 | 4371.53 | -3.17 | -0.07 | 4616.00 | 2881.21 | 1.96 |
| Milan MIB30 | 36470.00 | -168.00 | -0.46 | 39170.00 | 24175.00 | 1.11 |
| Madrid Ibor 35 | 10007.00 | -2.80 | -0.03 | 10989.80 | 6869.90 | 1.79 |
| Irish Overall | 5254.01 | -42.45 | -0.81 | 5454.25 | 3732.57 | 1.47 |
| S Korea Comp | 752.61 | -37.42 | -4.74 | 806.61 | 277.37 | 0.93 |
| Australia ASX | 3104.90 | -17.80 | -0.57 | 3156.90 | 2386.70 | 3.00 |

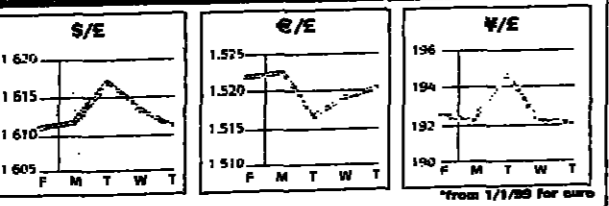
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

| Index | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| UK | 5.33 | -2.17 | 5.37 | -2.07 | 4.55 | -1.34 |
| US | 5.00 | -0.72 | 5.28 | -0.69 | 5.21 | 0.61 |
| Japan | 0.14 | -0.48 | 0.20 | -0.45 | 1.46 | -0.27 |
| Germany | 2.59 | -1.06 | 2.48 | -1.27 | 3.84 | -1.21 |

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

| Commodity | Price | Change | Yr Ago | Index | Price | Change | Yr Ago |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Brent Oil (\$) | 15.37 | -0.20 | 13.78 | GDP | 115.40 | 3.00 | 112.04 |
| Gold (\$) | 283.55 | 0.50 | 310.25 | RPI | 164.10 | 2.10 | 160.72 |
| Silver (\$) | 5.28 | 0.07 | 6.11 | Base Rates | 5.25 | 7.25 | |

TOURIST RATES

| Country | Rate | Country | Rate |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| Australia (\$) | 2.3872 | Mexican (nuevo peso) | 13.66 |
| Austria (schillings) | 20.27 | Netherlands (guilders) | 3.2518 |
| Belgium (francs) | 59.80 | New Zealand (\$) | 2.7972 |
| Canada (\$) | 2.3161 | Norway (kroner) | 12.29 |
| Cyprus (pounds) | 0.8499 | Portugal (escudos) | 294.26 |
| Denmark (kroner) | 11.03 | Saudi Arabia (rials) | 5.8848 |
| Finland (markka) | 8.8050 | Singapore (\$) | 2.6117 |
| France (francs) | 9.6812 | South Africa (rand) | 9.4141 |
| Germany (marks) | 2.8995 | Spain (pesetas) | 245.39 |
| Greece (drachma) | 482.96 | Switzerland (francs) | 2.3817 |
| Hong Kong (\$) | 12.14 | Thailand (bahts) | 54.92 |
| Ireland (pounds) | 1.1613 | Turkey (liras) | 603505 |
| India (rupees) | 62.17 | USA (\$) | 1.5778 |
| Israel (shekels) | 6.0412 | | |
| Italy (lira) | 2871 | | |
| Japan (yen) | 198.79 | | |
| Malaysia (ringgits) | 5.8706 | | |
| Malta (lira) | 0.6138 | | |

Home loans surge follows interest rate cuts

BY LEA PATERSON

THE PACE of recovery in the UK housing market was stepped up last month, according to the banks, with mortgage lending surging by almost 40 per cent.

Data published yesterday by the British Bankers' Association (BBA) revealed that gross mortgage lending soared to £1.97bn in March, £1.36bn higher than in February and 31 per cent higher than in March 1998.

Net lending rose by more than £1bn for the fifth successive month, and there was a near doubling in the number of approvals.

Tim Sweeney at the BBA said: "In the current interest rate environment, the strong approvals data suggest that the upturn could be sustained in the months ahead."

The Bank of England's re-

cent string of aggressive interest rate cuts has prompted sharp falls in many mortgage rates and sparked a recovery in the housing market.

There have been marked increases in house prices in most of the country, especially in Greater London, and analysts are bullish about market prospects.

Neil Parker, economist at Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "It's pretty clear that the scale

of the rate cuts has given a second wind to the housing market. I think we're going to see quite significant gains in prices this year."

Meanwhile, the latest quarterly forecast by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) will add to the growing economic optimism when it is published later today.

The NIESR has upped its forecast for growth this year

from 1 per cent to 1.25 per cent - in line with the Government's 1 to 1.5 per cent forecast.

It argues that the recent recovery in confidence should help the economy achieve a soft landing.

The pace of the UK recovery will accelerate during the course of the year, according to the NIESR, and growth in 2000 now looks set to approach 2.5 per cent.

The flipside of the pick-up in growth is a rise in inflation, which is forecast to overshoot the Government's 2.5 per cent target during next year. The scope for further interest rate cuts is limited, the NIESR says.

Like other commentators, it warns that the UK will increasingly become a "two speed" economy, with the service sector booming, but manufacturing mired in recession.



From left: Tim Byrne, Airtours finance director, Harry Coe, MD, and David Crossland, chairman, yesterday

Airtours launches £852m hostile bid for First Choice

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

AIRTOURS YESTERDAY launched an £852m hostile bid for First Choice Holidays in a move which would create Britain's leading holiday company and potentially trigger an all-out bid battle in Britain's cut-throat travel industry.

Airtours' bid for First Choice would give the combined company 34 per cent of Britain's package holiday market, ahead of Thomson Travel which has 25 per cent.

Thomson has repeatedly said it would defend its market leadership vigorously and said so again at its annual meeting yesterday. "We have been market leader in the UK for the past 25 years and have no intention of surrendering this position," Thomson's chairman Michael Brown told shareholders.

The bellwether remarks fuelled speculation that Thomson will launch a rival bid for First Choice, if only as a spoiling tactic to delay the issue in a lengthy competition inquiry.

First Choice is already in the midst of a £1.5bn agreed merger with Kuoni, the upmarket

KEY FACTS ON THE HOLIDAY GIANTS

| First Choice | Airtours |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sales: £1.2bn | Sales: £3bn |
| Profits: £50m | Profits: £140m |
| Market share: 15% | Market share: 19% |
| Travel agencies: 250 | Travel agencies: 960 |
| Airline: Air 2000 | Airline: Airtours |

Swiss tour operator. Yesterday First Choice said the Airtours bid "raises significant competition issues" which would eventually scupper the deal.

The all share bid from Airtours, which unsuccessfully bid for First Choice in 1993 when it was called Owners Abroad, is pitched at 229p per share. This is a 54 per cent premium to the implied price of First Choice shares in the Kuoni bid.

Airtours' bid has already received acceptances or indications of support from 43.7 per cent of First Choice shareholders. Of these, 28 per cent are irrevocable. This figure includes the 10 per cent stake held by Thomas Cook, which blocked the

last Airtours-First Choice bid when it acquired a "White Knight" blocking stake.

Analysts said Thomson could possibly launch a bid of up to 250p per share, valuing First Choice at nearly £940m.

Thomson backed up its sabre-rattling rhetoric with the launch yesterday of an aggressive price campaign and an increase in holiday capacity for next year. The move sent shock waves through the sector, which has only recently recovered its reputation for stability after woefully misjudging demand in 1995.

Thomson's shares closed 24p lower at 130.5p while Airtours shares also fell, by 27p to 431p. First Choice shares rose 7.5p to

200.5p, some way below the level of the Airtours offer.

Airtours said it was confident that its bid would not fall foul of the regulatory authorities. It claimed the UK market share of the combined group would be "only" 25 per cent. It added that it expected the bid to be scrutinised by the regulatory authorities in Brussels rather than the UK's Office of Fair Trading and that it would receive "fast track" clearance in 6-8 weeks.

"We believe we have got a very good chance of achieving competition clearance" said David Crossland, Airtours' chairman.

Airtours believes it will achieve annual cost savings of £35m from the deal. These will be achieved through the combination of head offices and administrative functions.

The deal was criticised by independent tour operators and smaller travel agents who complained the merger would create an effective duopoly within the UK travel industry. Airtours admitted the deal would not lead to lower holiday prices.

The terms of the Airtours offer are one new Airtours share for every two First Choice shares held.

Siemens ordered to repay £18m in grant aid

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
AND SARAH SCHAEFER

SIEMENS, the German electronics giant, was yesterday ordered to repay £18m it received in government grant aid to help build its doomed semiconductor plant on Tyneside.

Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons that Siemens had failed to meet conditions that were set down when it received the money towards opening the £18m factory in 1997.

Siemens announced the closure of the plant at Wallsend with the loss of 1,100 jobs last July, blaming a collapse in semiconductor prices.

The demand for repayment of the £18m in regional selective assistance effectively spells the end of attempts to find a buyer for the plant.

Speaking during a Tory-led debate on the economy in the Commons, Mr Byers said his department would now offer regional selective assistance grants to help attract other inward investment in the North East region and other parts of the country.

"Siemens will now be required, as a matter of urgency, to repay the £18m they received," said Mr Byers, whose own Tyneside North constituency is close to the plant.

The Siemens plant received a total of £60m in aid, of which £43m came from the UK. In addition to the £18m of RSA, Siemens also received £10m from English Partnerships, £2m from City Challenge to pay for roads and other structural improvements, £5m from Tyneside Training and Enterprise Council and £2m from North Tyneside Council. Further financial aid was provided from European Union funds.

A spokeswoman said: "We have always said we would return any money we were asked to pay back and we will not renege on that." Alan Wood, the chief executive of Siemens UK, is expected to meet Mr Byers today to discuss the repayment.

Siemens could not say how much more of the outstanding UK aid would be repaid. The spokeswoman said it was not possible to return some of the financial support because it had been provided in the form of training.

Mr Byers stressed the timing of the announcement was

not a result of the company's decision to open a new plant near Paris.

"The time is a pure coincidence," he said. Officials had sent out the invoice this morning after Siemens had ceased to continue with a marketing campaign for the Tyneside plant.

There is a skeleton staff of about 80 people left at the plant, which will be officially mothballed in June. The actual amount invested in the project was £680m as the closure was announced before Siemens went ahead with a second phase of expansion at the site.

Immediately after the closure announcement, the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, set up a government-led taskforce



Byers: Siemens has failed to meet conditions, he says

to try to save the plant. Since then there have been several expressions of interest but no serious buyers, and the taskforce has ceased work.

However, Siemens said it remained open to offers from any interested parties.

When the go-ahead was given for the plant in 1995, Siemens forecast that the world-wide market for semiconductor would reach \$200bn within three years, but it only reached \$145bn. Over the same period, overcapacity in the world-wide semiconductor market brought the price of memory chips down from \$55 to \$3.

The Tyneside plant was also hit by the loss of a partnership agreement with a Taiwanese company that would have guaranteed half its output for 10 years.

Hollick buys US publisher for \$920m

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, the national newspaper and television group, yesterday agreed to pay \$920m for a US print and online publisher of computer titles and said it was also keen to expand its UK publishing and television interests.

Lord Hollick, chief executive of UN&M, said the deal did not put it under any financial pressure to sell its flagship Express newspaper titles and added that the group was on the lookout for further acquisitions.

The US company that UN&M is acquiring, CMP Media, is

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

a number of leading computing and electronics titles including Information Week, Computer Reseller News and Electronic Engineering Times and also operates 40 online sites under the CMPNet brand.

The business, 68 per cent owned by the Leeds family, will be merged with UN&M's trade show and publishing arm, Miller Freeman, to create a high-tech business to business information company.

Lord Hollick also said it was considering a tracker listing on the US Nasdaq index and a flotation of the CMPNet business.

The price paid by UN&M represents two-times CMP's sales and 31 times its earnings last year before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of \$29m. Restructuring costs of \$65m will be taken as an exceptional charge in UN&M's accounts but savings of \$40m are forecast by 2000, making the acquisition earnings enhancing.

The deal will yield a \$625m windfall for the Leeds family.

CMP was floated in the US for \$500m two years ago.

The acquisition is the first major buy by UN&M since the end of 1996 and will leave UN&M with £1.25bn debt. But Lord Hollick said he was interested in further acquisitions.

In particular, he would like to raise UN&M's stake in Channel 5. UN&M owns 29 per cent but there has been speculation the 18 per cent stake held by venture capital fund Warburg Pincus is for sale. Lord Hollick said he had no plan to sell the Express titles.

Outlook, page 19

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE-CHIPS closed sharply lower as investors took profits after the recent record-breaking run. The FTSE-100 index finished 101.2 points lower at 5497.6, despite a firm opening on Wall Street. However, the FTSE-250 ended 2.9 points higher at 5816.6 and the Small Cap posted a 9.4 gain to 2557.2.

Mining and oil stocks were among the best-performing blue-chips as investors switched from growth sectors such as pharmaceuticals into cyclical shares. Market Report, page 21

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES was on course for another record close yesterday, trading just below the 11,000 level by lunchtime. The index set a new intraday high of 10,924 soon after the market opened, but fell back to 10,836 - up 10 points - by midday.

A benign wage inflation report showed US labour costs rising at their slowest rate on record. The employment cost index rose 0.4 per cent in the first quarter of the year, down from 0.7 per cent in the previous quarter.

HONG KONG

BARGAIN-HUNTING pushed Hong Kong shares higher, with the benchmark Hang Seng index closing up 46.31 points at 13,179.70. The index dipped below the 13,000 level during the trading day to set an intraday low of 12,831.60.

Howard Gorges, head of research at South China Securities, said: "The market seems to be alive and well but a bit cautious on blue chips and the big rises."

The Tokyo market was closed for a national holiday.

SAO PAULO

PROFIT-TAKING sent Brazilian shares modestly lower, with the Bovespa index trading down 0.6 per cent at 11,056 points by the early afternoon.

The Bovespa was as much as 2.1 per cent higher in early trade, following a cut in interest rates on Wednesday evening.

The central bank reduced its key Selic rate by 2 percentage points to 32 per cent, its fourth rate cut since January's currency crisis.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN stocks fell for a second successive day, with weak first quarter corporate earnings dragging down the main indices. The electronic Xetra Dax dropped 29.66 points, or 0.55 per cent, to 5,323.06. The floor Dax closed 0.27 per cent lower at 5,334.42.

Among companies reporting disappointing earnings were the chemicals group Hoechst, which fell 3.3 per cent to 42.5 euros, and the airline Lufthansa, which said pre-tax profit in 1999 was likely to be lower than in 1998.

Eight years and the US boom goes on

LET'S START with a celebration, for today we will receive the news that the US economy has just completed eight years of uninterrupted growth. We get the first estimate of GDP for the January-March quarter, which will be positive, of course - though perhaps not at the heady rate of the last quarter of 1998. This expansion is currently still a few months short of the record one of the 1960s, but there is surely enough momentum to carry it on through the rest of this year so it should at least match the previous record.

It is an astounding achievement, all the more so because the last two years have seen the US driving on swiftly into the headwind of sharp recession in east Asia and relative stagnation in much of continental Europe. The very scale of the achievement raises inevitable questions of "why?" and "how long?" For the "why?" I'm grateful to some work by the Conference Board, a US research group which has developed its own index of leading indicators covering the labour market, manufacturing, household and financial indicators. Its conclusion, looking at the signals that this gives and applying the appropriate lags, is that there is very little danger of recession this year, less in fact than there has been at several earlier stages in the expansion (see graph).



HAMISH MCRAE

The very scale of the achievement raises inevitable questions of 'why?' and 'how long?'

The strongest driver of this index - the key thing which gives the Conference Board the confidence that the US outlook is secure - is finance. Low short-term interest rates and plentiful liquidity should enable the expansion to carry on, since there has been no recession since the Second World War which has not been preceded by a sharp rise in interest rates. So providing this congruence of low interest rates, rapid growth in money supply and rising asset prices continues, all seems set fair.

Meanwhile, consumers have found their confidence bolstered by the rising value of their share portfolios and their houses. Last year personal in-

come rose by 4 per cent, the largest increase in the 1990s. There was a rise in the number of people in work and in the number of hours people worked, as well as wage increases in the 4-5 per cent region. So people keep will keep spending (right-hand chart), and while they do so the US economy will remain bullet-proof.

If it is relatively easy to answer the "why?" question, what about the "how long?"

Trying to answer that becomes a bit like an exercise in rounding up the usual suspects. There are a number of different things that might end the expansion and we know what they are. The problem is to know which ones will break cover and show themselves to the world.

Start with the obvious. There are, first, three things which would put pressure on consumer spending: a rise in inflation and interest rates, a rise in unemployment, and a fall in share prices. We know enough about the history of economic cycles to know that all are not just possible but - sooner or later - inevitable.

The only real issue is whether, when this clutch of negatives comes along, they will show themselves in a benign or a malevolent form. If benign, we get a period of below-trend growth which enables the economy to rebuild some slack with-

out actually going into recession. If malevolent, then recession looms.

Aside from these direct influences on US domestic consumption, there are also potential external influences. Were the euro to attract a little more confidence, there could be a gradual switch of assets away from the dollar. A falling dollar might in the long run help US exports and help demand that way, but it would put pressure on US interest rates because of the impact on prices.

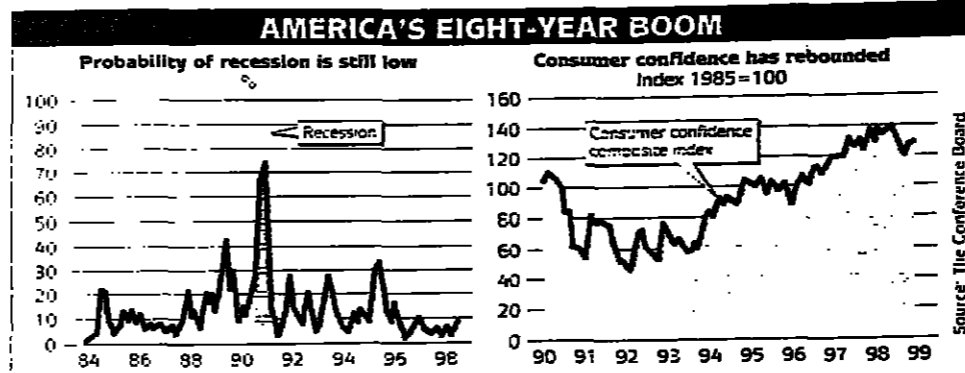
One of the main reasons why US price performance has been so impressive is because of the combination of a strong dollar and low commodity prices. The commodity price cycle may possibly have turned (the oil cycle seems to have done so), and at some level eventually the dollar cycle will turn. When it does, inflation will re-emerge.

Beyond that sort of probably gradual change, there is the chance of an external shock: something that suddenly changes the mood of the world economy. The most obvious candidate is the millennium bug or Y2K: either actual disruption because of computer failures around the turn of the year or feared disruption.

Such is the way of the world, that usually it is the thing you don't foresee which will bite you in the backside. The one absolutely certain thing that can



Customers in a Boston computer shop for a midnight sale. The Internet is a key element in the current US boom. AP



be said about the Y2K problem is that it has not just been foreseen: we have been bored almost to destruction by it. I suppose the most sensible thing to say about Y2K is simply that the millennium comes at an awkward time in the global economic cycle.

But all this is to carp. Sure, the macro-economic discussion about the long American boom has to look towards its eventual end, but to focus on the macro-numbers is to ignore the qualitative aspects of this particular expansion, the things which make

it different from the others. It will be another three or four years before we can hope to see this boom in any perspective, but however it ends - whether with a squeak or a bang - the new element will always be the way it has been influenced by the communi-

cations technology of the Internet. If we are in the latter stages of the expansion we are still in the very early stages of this new technology.

It is overwhelmingly an American phenomenon, in the sense that it has been in the States where the potential applications have been most rapidly exploited. The latter stages of this boom have been overwhelmingly technology-driven.

Every boom is different, and this one is no exception. My guess is that it will indeed just surpass the 1960s expansion in its longevity, but the thing it will be remembered for will not be that it will be the way it spawned a new technology which gives a glimpse of the future.

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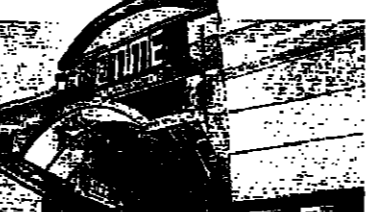
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Washington urges tighter controls on hedge funds

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

AMERICA AND Britain should pressure offshore financial centres to tighten their standards and their scrutiny of hedge funds, the US said in a report released yesterday.

Hedge funds would have to provide more information about their activities under proposals released by the US Treasury. The probe was triggered by the near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management last year, and a statement accompanying the report.

The President's Working Group on Financial Markets brought together the Treasury, the Federal Reserve, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to assess

the risks in the industry and possible solutions.

The final report includes "a number of policy recommendations that are designed to reduce the potential risks of excessive leverage as demonstrated by the near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management," the White House said in a statement accompanying the report.

It aims to tighten industry self-regulation and to force the private sector to disclose what risks it is taking. It shies away from direct regulation on the argument that hedge funds would move further offshore, outside the ambit of US regulators.

LTCM was based in the Cayman Islands. Regulators from the US and other Group of Seven countries should press offshore financial centres to tighten their standards and apply capital requirements, the report says.

It should also consider raising the risk weighting for transactions with offshore banks, and making it difficult for offshore jurisdictions to participate in international financial discussions unless they comply.

Several of the world's major offshore centres, including the Caymans and the Channel Islands, are under British rule although self-governed.

It recommends that the SEC and the CFTC be given more power to investigate firms that deal with hedge funds.

IN BRIEF

Liffe battles for US screens

LIFFE, the London futures exchanges today takes its battle with Frankfurt rival Eurex to the United States by tabling a formal request for a waiver from a Federal ban on installing Liffe Connect trading screens in the US. Eurex is already active in the US having succeeded in placing large numbers of screens before US regulators imposed the ban pending clarification of the regulatory position.

TT setback

TT GROUP suffered another setback in its bid for Hall Engineering yesterday after Aerotec, a management buyout team backed by Candover Partners, raised its offer to 170p a share. But the specialist engineer did manage to rescue Prestwick Holdings, a printed board circuit manufacturer which it already held 26.4 per cent of, from receivership with a £700,000 agreed takeover offer. TT Group said it was "considering" whether to review its 138p a share cash offer, which values Hall at £72.7m.

Amazon falls

WIDENING THIRD-quarter losses and a profits warning from Amazon.com triggered early falls in hi-tech stocks on Wall Street yesterday as the Internet bookseller said losses would continue to rise as it spends more on promotions and new services. First-quarter losses increased to \$61.7m from \$10.4m a year earlier as Amazon.com, which has lost money since it began in 1994, bought stakes in online companies, moved into businesses such as auctions.

IMF agrees terms of \$4.5bn loan to Russia

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has agreed terms of a \$4.5bn loan to Russia, its first since it cut off lending to the country in the wake of the government's debt default last August, writes Lea Paterson.

Michel Camdessus, IMF managing director, warned Russia the loan was conditional on fiscal, financial and structural reforms, including revisions of banking laws, improved tax collection and assurances the money will not be misused.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Camdessus said: "As soon as the measures are implemented and I have received the necessary assurances, I shall ask the execu-

tive board to consider Russia's request for a standby arrangement of \$4.5bn over 18 months, of which \$3bn would be in the first 12 months."

The loan, which fell slightly short of expectations, is likely to be part of a \$7.5bn package, with money promised by other lenders, including the World Bank. Once debt rescheduling is taken into account, the total package is likely to total \$24bn.

Russia is unlikely to meet several of the IMF conditions. But analysts said the political pressure to bail out Russia was so great the money may be released without implementation of all the requisite reforms.

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- For loans where a notice period is required, borrowers have already been sent individual notification.
- For loans in our annual instalment review scheme, the change will be reflected in payments from March 2000.
- For loans with a capped interest rate where this rate change takes C&G's standard variable rate below the capped rate, our standard variable mortgage rate will apply until further notice.
- This notice does not apply to new variable rate loans which started on or after 16 April 1999 as they are already on the new rate. In addition, this notice does not apply to borrowers whose mortgage rate is currently fixed, or who have capped-rate mortgages where the capped rate is lower than the new variable rate.



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SPORT

The death of one of Grand Prix's outstanding talents five years ago changed racing for ever but gave rise to one lasting question

How great could Senna have been?

THE TIME is one minute before two o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday, 2 May 1999. The 22 cars of the Formula One circus are assembled on the grid at Imola for the San Marino Grand Prix, the third race of the season. In pole position sits the McLaren-Mercedes of Michael Schumacher, the defending world champion, already a winner in Australia and Brazil this year. Next to him is Ayrton Senna, the six-time world champion, in a Ferrari, so far without a point to his name. With seconds to go, their engines scream.

Schumacher is looking straight ahead, thinking about getting himself into position for the long left-hand curve known as Tamburello, "the little drum", which follows the contour of the concrete wall bordering the slow green sweep of the Santerno river. He will be sweeping through it at something over 190 mph, barely lifting his foot from the throttle as the car judders over the notorious ripples in the asphalt at the apex of the corner.

Senna is thinking about Schumacher, and about how the McLaren seems to behave as though a computer were co-ordinating its control systems. For an instant his thoughts go back five years, to another May weekend at the same circuit, when Schumacher was also in a car - a Benetton, that time - displaying an uneasy degree of responsiveness, and one which was to take the German driver to the first of his two world titles, despite Senna's herculean efforts in an out-paced Williams.

But, as he glances at the figures flickering on the digital read-out set into the Ferrari's steering wheel, a more sombre thought overtakes the urgencies of the moment. The 39-year-old Senna is thinking about Ricardo Zonta, his young compatriot, who suffered serious head injuries three weeks ago in practice at Interlagos when his BAR folded up around him in a 100mph impact with a steel barrier. It's time, Senna is thinking, to get the governing body to do something about improving cockpit safety for the drivers.

The red lights go on - one, two, three, four, five - and then disappear. In a cloud of dust the cars dash down the straight, accelerating past the grandstands, through the funnel of trees, heading towards the long left-handed curve.

NO, no. That's not the way it is. Because this Sunday it will, of course, be five years since Ayrton Senna, trying to keep his Williams ahead of Michael Schumacher's Benetton, lost control for some still-unexplained reason on the ripples of Tamburello and crashed into the concrete wall bordering the Santerno, suffering fatal head injuries when a suspension arm snapped and bent back, piercing his helmet.

Those five years have been filled with tributes to a man whose global reach became evident only after his death. Some memorials were ephemeral in nature, like the drivers' silent vigil on the grid at Monaco two weeks later, or their parade around Interlagos, his home track, the next year, each of them waving a small Brazilian flag as he used to do on his laps of honour. Or the countless posies and poems and other keepsakes left at the places of his death and of his burial, an ocean and thousands of miles apart. Or even the judicial inquiry, which lasted



RICHARD WILLIAMS

three years and yet drew no conclusion.

Some were more lasting. A handsome bronze statue of a pensive Senna stands on the infield at Tamburello, where the old sweeping bend has been completely reprofiled, turning it into a left-right-left chicane devoid of character. At Estoril, on a mound above the big 180-degree bend which launches the cars into the pits straight, there is an elegant monument bearing some words of Senna's on the subject of mortality: "Ayrton once said concerning death: 'The day it comes, it comes. It could be today... or not for fifty years. The only certainty is that it will come'."

And, as if in proof, there is a small bronze plaque set into the lawn of a cemetery high on a suburban hill above São Paulo. And there are less tangible but even more significant consequences of that dreadful day. The activities of the Ayrton Senna Foundation, raising money through the sale of artefacts bearing his likeness or signature, from baseball caps and fountain pens to mountain bikes and speedboats, have helped educate and encourage many Brazilian children born into otherwise hopeless poverty. And, within his own profession, the most lasting memorial - beyond the imperishable statistics recording his victories - lies in the changes to the technical regulations which forced Formula One's circuit owners and car designers to protect the drivers more effectively. The provisions undertaken as a consequence of his death range from better barricades and run-off areas to higher cockpit surrounds using impact-absorbing materials (which may indeed have saved Ricardo Zonta's life at Interlagos three weeks ago) and better ideas about mounting data-collecting black boxes to avoid destruction in accidents, which is what happened with Senna's car.



Michael Schumacher (left) with the late Ayrton Senna

But he is also memorialised, with a so-far undiminished clarity, every time someone looks wistfully at the present generation of grand prix cars and drivers, at the cars he might have driven and the drivers who might have challenged him, and wonders, "What if..."

This is motor racing's most popular spectator game. Even the insiders play it all the time. All sports encourage it, to some extent. How would Laver have got on against McEnroe or Sampras? How many of this year's Manchester United squad would have made it into the 1968 side? Would Warner's flipper have bamboozled Hobbs? In Formula One, the rapid advance of technology adds another layer of uncertainty to the debate - but it's hard to believe that Fangio, say, would have been given problems if faced with a semi-automatic gearbox, great fat sticky tyres, and the black art of generating downforce. He would still have been Fangio and still, surely, a length ahead of the rest - except, perhaps, Ascari, whose career overlapped with his, and Clark, and Senna... and that way lies an evening's argument.

Had Senna not died in a freak accident on 1 May 1994, he might well have exceeded Fangio's record of five world championships by now. He died trying to keep ahead of Schumacher's Benetton, which he suspected of using banned electronic aids. He had joined the Williams team at the beginning of the year, after watching glumly from the seat of his waning McLaren as their absolute dominance presented the title first to Nigel Mansell and then to Alain Prost in consecutive seasons. When he finally took a seat in the Williams at the start of the 1994 season, he was at the height of his powers and had been firmly expecting to step into the best machine on the grid.

To his consternation, it didn't work out that way. The Williams design team had been caught on the hop by the banning of electronic driver aids, and their new car was proving awkward for Senna and his number two, Damon Hill. At São Paulo, Senna had spun into retirement while trying to meet the challenge of Schumacher - who, at 25, was nine years his junior and clearly the pick of the next generation. In the second race, at the Aida circuit in Japan, he had been eliminated in a shunt at the first corner, and Schumacher won again.

The makings of a classic season were being laid out. A veteran virtuoso in a car that needed all his experience versus a fearless young charger in a machine of widely questioned legality. It may seem a small forfeit next to a man's life, but the incident at the beginning of the seventh lap of the San Marino Grand Prix cost us a battle that would surely have developed into an epic.

Schumacher might still have taken the title that season, one way or another. But although Senna was deeply upset by Roland Ratzenberger's death and Rubens Barrichello's serious accident during practice at Imola, he would have been sufficiently encouraged by his team's progress to have remained with Williams to enjoy the fruits of their labours over the next three seasons, meaning that he would surely have picked up three more titles. Damon Hill, who took over the leadership of the Williams team, failed to deny Schumacher the championship



The Imola monument to the Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who was killed during the San Marino Grand Prix in 1994

Allsport

in 1995 only through his own frailties, before going on to win it himself in 1996, while Jacques Villeneuve won the 1997 title in what would have been Senna's car. By 1998, one imagines that Schumacher, in his desperation to challenge Senna, would have found his way not to the struggling Ferrari team but to McLaren, where Ron Dennis would have broken the bank to sign the only man capable of mounting a real challenge to his former champion. And Schumacher's move would have coincided both with McLaren's ascendancy and Williams's decline, which might have handed the German a second title and sent Senna off to Ferrari, where a huge Marlboro retainer would have encouraged him to fulfil a fantasy, once confided to Adriane Galisteu, his last girlfriend, of finishing his career in one of the red cars.

THIS is nonsense, of course. He died, and that's it. Nothing can devalue the

titles won by Hill, Villeneuve and, most recently, Mika Hakkinen - although there will always be a faint question mark hanging over the way Schumacher got his name up alongside theirs.

No question about his inherent talent, though. Formed, like Senna, by kart racing, his driving style had similar features - notably an unorthodox willingness to play with the throttle while in the middle of a corner, in a constant search for the limit of adhesion. But Schumacher also borrowed elements of Senna's competitive personality, principally his dedication to hard work, which brought him the adoration of his mechanics, and his utter ruthlessness on the track, which is the expression of a self-belief so extreme that it borders on a psychopathic condition.

There had been hard racers before Senna, but it was he who turned Formula One into a contact sport, by bringing to it the sort of bullying tac-

tics that had served him well in karts and Formula Ford, where teenaged drivers share a belief in their own immortality. Senna was the first to see the benefits it could bring to the first man to try it at the top level, and Mansell and Prost were among his victims. He sincerely believed that they had no right to be in front of him, so he acted as though they and their cars didn't exist.

His charisma - a combination of good looks and a curiously spiritual air - helped him get away with it more often than not. Schumacher, who commands none of the Brazilian's off-track graces, has been less lucky. Blatant obstruction worked for him when he punted Hill off in the last race of 1994, but a similar attack on Villeneuve three years later was not only unsuccessful but did lasting damage to his reputation. It would have been interesting, to say the least, to witness a few more years of battle between a mellowing Senna and a hungry Schumacher.

But you could say something similar about Ascari v Fangio, or Fangio v Moss, or Moss v Clark, or Clark v Stewart, or Stewart v Lauda, and so on. That's the way motor racing goes. Had Senna not become the first man to die during a grand prix in 12 years, there is a good chance that he might have carried on until the end of the decade, when he would have been approaching his 40th birthday. Whatever we might have been saying about him then, even had he beaten Fangio's record, the feelings would be unlikely to match the awe and admiration with which a shockingly premature death endowed him, and with which he will be remembered at Imola and elsewhere this weekend.

A revised and updated version of *The Death Of Ayrton Senna* by Richard Williams is published this week by Bloomsbury (paperback, £7.99).

Irvine knows realism is not Ferrari fans' forte

SPRINGTIME IN Emilia Romagna, a time for gentle sunshine and celebration of Ferrari's rejuvenation. Except that the skies were grey here yesterday and so was the mood of the world championship leader.

Eddie Irvine goes into Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix at the head of the title standings yet professing himself "disheartened" by the performance of his Ferrari. The Ulsterman is not renowned for reverence yet this is a sentiment which may prove particularly distressing in these parts, the Ferrari heartland. It is usual to bow the knee

BY DERICK ALLSOP
at Imola

and ring the bells at the shrine of the Prancing Horse.

However, Irvine merely confronts the reality of this early season. He may be two points ahead of the world champion, Mika Hakkinen, courtesy of a maiden Formula One win in Australia and two points in Brazil, but his car remains no match for the performance of the McLaren-Mercedes.

Reliability problems forced Finland's Hakkinen and his teammate, David Coulthard, out of the

race in Melbourne, while the Scotsman also failed to complete the distance at Interlagos. The McLarens were distinctly quicker at both venues and recent testing has done little to suggest a dramatic change.

Although Irvine is contracted as No 2 to Michael Schumacher at Ferrari and accepts he must eventually support the German's cause, he hoped he would be able to challenge McLaren on a more-or-less level playing field.

The opening round of the European tour is generally acknowledged as the start of the season proper so Irvine seeks evidence of

genuine optimism in the Italian camp. But he admits he is resigned to a predatory role here, hovering to pick up the pieces should the McLarens and Schumacher again become the victims of circumstance.

"The reason I stayed at Ferrari was to be able to fight McLaren and we're not doing that. We can't do that at the moment and it harks me off. It's very disheartening. We have to find how to be quicker and close the gap. I want to leave here leading the championship and if the first three guys have problems I could even have another win. I'm hoping

for a good result this weekend and have finished on the podium here for the last two years.

"McLaren are getting more reliable but are still not 100 per cent. If the percentage goes against them then there is a chance for us. I think we can get closer because their car is on the limit in many places and we can still improve. But to be honest, it's going to be tough to close the gap."

Hakkinen put Ferrari's task into perspective when he said: "I'm optimistic about the race and the championship. I have good reasons for being optimistic while I can

hardly understand Schumacher's optimism."

Irvine knows the majority of the crowd here will be exhorting Ferrari, but especially Schumacher. He fears disappointment all round. He said: "I love the atmosphere here, with all the Ferrari fans, but if we are spanked by McLaren we're not going to be very popular. Michael is the man Ferrari want to win, and if he can't then they'll take me. It's not ideal for Ferrari if Michael has a problem but that always lets me step in. I'm never going to be sad about winning."

"If I leave here still leading the

championship I'll certainly feel I've achieved something. Realistically, I just hope for a good result this weekend."

This is also home for Alessandro Zanardi. The man from Bologna, who returned to Formula One after twice winning the American CART Series, has still to register a finish with Williams. Here would be as good a place as any for a change of fortune. "I'm confident my bad luck won't last forever," he said. "I'm hungry for a good race. I'm not happy with my results so far, and I know everybody in the team is working hard."

دکتر محمد صالح

Salford hope to lure back Langer

SALFORD ARE to attempt to lure Allan Langer out of retirement, a matter of days after his announcement that he was finished with the game.

The Brisbane and Australia scrum-half announced his retirement on Tuesday because he felt that his form had slipped but Salford, without a win in Super League this season, hope that they can rekindle his enthusiasm.

The Salford coach, Andy Gregory, is a long-standing friend and admirer of Langer

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Dave Hadfield

and believes that he could be the man to lift his struggling side. A representative of the club is making attempts to contact the player in Queensland. The London Broncos tried to sign Langer at the start of this season, before he extended his contract with Brisbane, but have decided that they might revive their interest.

"If he is saying that he has

lost his enthusiasm for the game, then we wouldn't be trying to dissuade him," their chief executive, Tony Rea, said. "We are very happy with our situation in the half-backs."

Langer's current scrum-half and captain, Shaun Edwards, has come through two training sessions after insisting that he is fit to play in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final tomorrow, despite having a broken thumb. "Shaun trained in a cast and looked sensational," the Broncos' coach, Dan Stains, said,

adding that he was confident that Edwards would get through the match.

"My doubts were never about that," he said. "It was a question of whether there would be any long-term damage."

Ticket sales for the final have topped the 70,000 mark, raising hopes of a 77,000 sell-out but definitely improving on last year's relatively meagre 60,000 to see Sheffield beat Wigan. London have sold 15,500 of their 18,000 allocation, Rea said. Each of the 23 clubs to have

reached the final in the last 70 years will have five representatives in a parade to mark the last final before Wembley is demolished, and the Dewsbury party will include a direct link with the Challenge Cup's debut at the stadium in 1929.

Tom Coates, aged 11, is the grandson of Henry Coates, who played in the Dewsbury team beaten 13-2 by Wigan that day. Other great names from past finals include David Toplis and Ian Brodie from Wakefield Trinity, Roger Millward of Hull

KR, Austin Rhodes of St Helens, Russ Pepperell, who captained Huddersfield in 1953, and Trevor Foster, who played for Bradford Northern in 1949.

Bradford's Odsal Stadium is to undergo a £80m redevelopment to turn it into a smaller version of the Stadium of Light, Bradford Council, which owns the ground, has given the green light to plans from Sterling Capital, headed by the Sunderland chairman, Bill Murray, to create a 25,000, all-seater stadium on the site.

Mad, bad boy has his day

Barrie McDermott used to have big discipline problems. Now he is a Leeds disciple. By Dave Hadfield

"I DIDN'T see any good qualities in him in the early days. All he was doing was getting sent off and giving away penalties." You might say Barrie McDermott did not get off on the right foot with Graham Murray.

There would have been no shortage of people eager to tell the new Leeds coach at the start of last season that, in McDermott, he had inherited trouble; a prop who was mad, bad and dangerous to know, both on and off the pitch.

In Murray's first game in charge, the Challenge Cup tie against Castleford, McDermott confirmed all the worst suspicions, with a performance of such monumental indiscipline his boss came close to publicly disowning him.

And that was it for 1998. Pushed to the fringe of the first team and then beyond the fringe, he started just four more games and was not even in the squad for the Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford.

"I was a bit of a star at the end of last season about what the future held for me," he says. "Last year was really disappointing. The season before, I was putting some decent form together, but I broke my leg and took 12 months to recover."

"When I came back, I didn't

do myself any favours. But I've got a family and a wife who knows me well and she said if I walked away I'd regret it for the rest of my life."

So McDermott put in a ferocious close season, even changing the date of his honeymoon to give himself a clear run at it. Murray was so impressed that, having kept an open mind, he promoted him to the starting side.

Happily ever after? Not quite; after 20 minutes of the sort of rugby he is capable of playing in the Cup tie against Wigan, McDermott was standing over a prostrate Simon Haughton and the referee was pointing him in the direction of the dressing-rooms.

"Russell Smith had no choice," he says of that high tackle. "He made the correct decision, but I was a little bit disappointed in the player. Simon Haughton came to my stag night and he's not a bad guy, but I was disappointed in him."

Murray could have been expected to be fairly disappointed as well, but this time he kept his faith with his errant front-rower. "Graham was good and I got a fair hearing at Red Hall [League HQ] for one of the few times in my career."

More to the point, McDermott, having served his time,



Barrie McDermott, of Leeds, gears up for Saturday's Challenge Cup final at Wembley

Simon Wilkinson

has repaid the faith. Straight back into the team after his suspension, his headlong attack on the opening stages of every game is one of the things that defines Leeds' style.

"I'm a big believer in the importance of the first 20 or 25 minutes. It's collision time, the time when you get all the big hits and I want to be there for it. Sometimes I don't like coming off the field after that, but they'd have to change the game before you could play 80 minutes that way."

With his approach to the game, McDermott remains an object lesson in the importance of aggression and the equal importance of controlling and channelling it. His reputation for boiling over began early.

"The early part of my career I spent making a name for myself, a bad one, and I paid heavily for it. I don't have to bite so much now; I just bark. As a youngster, I didn't know anyone I was playing against. Now I know them all. Rugby league is a very small world and I've had a beer or a night out with most of them. I've not too many enemies in the game. Besides, what goes around comes around. If you go stamping on legs and head-butting, the next chance they get they'll do it to you."

One excuse for his excesses that is sometimes advanced on his behalf is that he only has one eye, the other having been lost in a boyhood accident, but he is having none of that. "I've never

used it as an excuse, never said 'Poor me'. I take responsibility for what I've done. People say to me I'm a very different person from the way I seem on the pitch. I learnt a lot about that when I was at Wigan with Kelvin Skerrett. He looks an absolute maniac on the pitch, but he's the nicest bloke you could meet - just a shy bloke."

McDermott is genuinely well-liked within a game to which he gives a lot back by coaching an amateur side in his native Oldham three nights a week. He admits, though, that he has had his mad moments away from the sport as well, most infamously when he became the first man in the country to have CS spray used on

him by the police. "When you get married and have children, you don't find yourself in those situations. As a single man, I liked to socialise. The biggest change in my life was having my son, Billy, nearly three years ago. I'm so proud for him to be part of my big day. With a bit of luck, he'll remember that he was there to see his dad walk out at Wembley."

And with a bit of luck too, Billy will see his dad walk the right side of that thin line that separates aggression from indiscipline. If he can do that, the commotion and controversy that have characterised Barrie McDermott's rugby league career might at last have resolved themselves.

Lanner storms into lead

FOUR DAYS after Jesper Parnevik and Jarmo Sandelin won on both sides of the Atlantic, Swedish golfers were in form again yesterday.

Mats Lanner scored a 10-under-par 62 to take the first-round lead in the Fiat and Fila Italian Open, while his compatriot Per Nyman lies joint second with England's Gary Evans following a 65.

Lanner's round, which equalled the lowest on the European Tour this season, promised to be even better. He had an eagle at the first, turned in a seven-under 29 and then

GOLF

By Mark Garrud
in Turin

had a hat-trick of birdies from the 12th - the last of them a 25-foot putt.

At 10 under with a par five to come, the chance to become the first man ever to break 60 on the circuit - Al Geiberger, Chip Beck and David Duval have achieved the feat in America - was there. That hope evaporated when the 38-year-old Swede made only a five on the 557-yard 15th and had a bogey at the 16th

after missing the green. But Lanner, who after losing his tour card in 1996 grabbed it back in style last year by winning the Madeira Island Open, sank a 10-foot putt for his ninth birdie at the 17th and was delighted with a round that was nine better than the Masters champion, Jose Maria Olazabal, and 10 better than the US Open champion, Lee Janzen.

Aside from the 25-foot effort he sank three 20-footers and an 18-footer to break the Circolo Golf course record by three. Joint fourth following 66s are Derrick Cooper and Russell Claydon.

MacArthur lands £2m deal

THE 22-YEAR-OLD Ellen MacArthur yesterday announced a dream come true with the biggest-ever backing for a British single-handed yachtsman. Over £2m from the Kingfisher Group, who own B&Q and Woolworth, is being put into her bid to win the Vendée Globe Race starting in November 2000.

The 55ft class winner in last year's Route du Rhum will have a new 60ft yacht built for the non-stop round the world event. Safety as well as speed will be the priorities for a design team which will be

SAILING

By Stuart Alexander

led by the Welshman Rob Humphreys.

It includes Merlyn Owen as project director and France's previous race winner, Alain Gauthier, along with the Italian technical materials expert Giovanni Beltramo. The build contract has been put out to tender, with yards in France and New Zealand front runners to meet a target launch date of February 2000.

Isabelle Authissier, who has

twice been rescued from her upturned yacht in single-handed races, has called for new rules to increase safety levels in the sport.

In her Vendée build-up, MacArthur, the British yachtsman of the year, who comes from Whatstandwell, Derbyshire, will include small boat training with the Olympian Paul Bown at the Laser 4000, the Fastnet race with Yvan Bourgnon on a 60ft trimaran, and partnering the Frenchman Yves Parlier in the Jacques Vabre two-handed transatlantic race this November.

ATHLETICS

Sweden's Olympic and world 100 metres hurdles champion, Ludmila Engquist, 35, has revealed she has undergone breast cancer surgery but is determined to be fit for next year's Sydney Olympics. She is facing chemotherapy.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 9 Minnesota 6; Chicago White Sox 10 Tampa Bay 1 (2nd game); Kansas City 8 Baltimore 2; Texas 6 New York Yankees 5; Anaheim 12 Toronto 10; Cleveland 4 Oakland 1; Seattle 8 Detroit 6. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 6 Florida 1; Los Angeles 3 Milwaukee 2; San Francisco 4 Montreal 3; Cincinnati 12 Philadelphia 6; New York Mets 4 San Diego 3; Colorado 5 St Louis 7.

BASEBALL

NBA: Atlanta 76 New York 72; Detroit 101 New Jersey 93; Orlando 93 Washington 85; Minnesota 97 Phoenix 92; Milwaukee 115 Toronto 102; Portland 119 Seattle 84.

BOXING

Harry Simon has threatened to pull out of tomorrow's World Boxing Organisation world light-middleweight title defence against Britain's Kevin Leavers. Simon, the Namibian's trainer, has objected to British judges Dave Paris and Roy Francis officiating at the Crystal Palace fight. "Harry's title is on the line, so it's crazy to have two English judges. He totally understands and we are not prepared to get in the ring," Mitchell said.

CRICKET

WEDNESDAY'S LATEST SCORES: Second XI Championship (Second day of four): Essex 249; Surrey 224; (W) P. Jones 51, E. Benjamin 55, D. Thompson 7 for 71.

CYCLING

GIRO DEL TRENTINO RIVA DEL GARDA (Arco, It): Fourth and final stage: 1. A. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 2. A. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 3. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 4. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 5. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 6. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 7. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 8. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 9. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 10. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 11. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 12. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 13. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 14. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 15. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 16. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 17. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 18. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 19. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 20. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 21. G. Gontcharenko (Rus) 3hr 11min 37sec; 22. G. 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Keegan led by innocence of youth

THE HUNGARIAN media revived Kevin Keegan's old nickname, Mighty Mouse, when he arrived in Budapest this week. But to judge from his belief in youth, the England coach has more in common with Disney's famous rodent.

Though the senior players were England's best performers in the Nép Stadium on Wednesday night, Keegan's first thought, after revealing he had decided to take the job long-term, was of the young players whose promise had encouraged his decision.

He was not just talking about the five debutants on Wednesday night but of others with him in Hungary and back in England. "At the moment we have the best crop of young players coming through for 15 years

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

and their potential was a factor in taking the job," he said. "You need a blend, young players need to be able to look up and see a David Batty or Alan Shearer alongside, and that's what I will give them, but they are our future."

This promise has been evident for several years now and Keegan's predecessor, Glenn Hoddle, spoke similarly about his own reasons for becoming England coach. His 10 new caps included David Beckham, Michael Owen, Paul Scholes, Rio Ferdinand, Nicky Butt and Lee Hendrie, all of whom are still under 25.

With Terry Venables having previously capped the Neville

brothers, Gary and Phil, Sol Campbell and Robbie Fowler, Keegan thus inherited a nucleus of young players who already had some knowledge of the international scene.

This week he capped, or called up, another eight youngsters (Michael Gray, Emile Heskey, Jamie Carragher, Wes Brown, Frank Lampard, Francis Jeffers, Michael Ball and Jonathan Woodgate) plus the late-developing 25-year-old Kevin Phillips.

Not all prospered: Brown was not ready; Phillips faded after a bright start; others had less chance to make an impact; but all will have learned and most should get another chance.

Keegan said he would not be judging anyone on 90 (or 15) minutes and added: "People will

judge them on one game but I will judge them on the three days I've had with them and from training. We didn't have it all our own way so [those who played] have had a true test of what international football is all about. I thought they did very, very well. You wouldn't come out and rave about them but you'd look to them to progress off the experience, like you would a racehorse that had been given a first run.

ENGLAND'S YOUNG LIONS

UNDER-25 XI

Wright (Ipswich, age 21); "G" Neville (Manchester United, 24); "Ferdinand" (West Ham, 20); "Campbell" (Tottenham, 24); "P" Neville (Manchester United, 22); "Beckham" (Manchester United, 23); "Butt" (Manchester United, 24); "Scholes" (Manchester United, 24); "Hendrie" (Aston Villa, 21); "Fowler" (Liverpool, 24); "Owen" (Liverpool, 19).

UNDER-21 XI

Smoosens (Everton, 20); Woodgate (Leeds, 18); "Ferdinand" (West Ham, 20); Barry (Aston Villa, 18); "Brown" (Manchester United, 20); Cole (West Ham, 17); Lampard (West Ham, 20); Morris (Chelsea, 20); Ball (Everton, 19); Jeffers (Everton, 18); "Owen" (Liverpool, 19).

* denotes full international

Scotland find new sense of self-belief

SCOTLAND'S REMARKABLE victory over Germany produced an effect which an army of sports psychologists, faith healers and self-styled motivational gurus might have struggled to achieve. By beating the European champions in their own backyard, Craig Brown's makeshift team changed perceptions on the question of qualifying for Euro 2000 at a stroke.

Among the management, players and fans, the belief that Scotland can now go on and repeat Wednesday's feat by winning away to the Czech Republic, their principal rivals in Group Nine, was strong as they returned to prepare for such trifling matters as Sunday's Old Firm derby. Suddenly, the end of season friendly no one wanted did not seem such a bad idea.

Since the Czechs' win in Scotland a month ago, Brown had been almost alone in contending there was no reason why Scotland could not turn the tables on 9 June. Admitting that he would gladly trade the triumph in Bremen for one in Prague, he added: "I was criticised after the match in Glasgow for suggesting that we could win over there. But if we get players back, it is by no means out of the question."

Brown may be less inclined to ring the changes than might have been the case before the success in the Weststadion. Several of the fringe players, most notably the match-winner Don Hutchison, would have caused to feel aggrieved if they were returned to the bench when Scotland resume competitive action in the Faroe Islands on 5 June.

It is, of course, possible to read too much into a friendly, especially when a number of the opposing players have a European Cup date with Manchester United on their minds.

Some Scottish supporters and scribes still harp back to an overhead kick which Duncan Ferguson crashed against the German bar in 1993, citing it as evidence (in the absence of any goals) of the big striker's potential at the highest level.

Like his former Everton team-mate, Hutchison has suf-

BY PHIL SHAW

fered from image problems, albeit without falling foul of the law. However, he already looks likely to achieve more internationally. Praising the Tyne-sider, who has a Scottish father, Brown said: "Don did outstandingly well in three different roles - up front, on the left of midfield, and once Paul Lambert went off, as the anchor man."

Brown singled out Hutchison for "a right good chat" during the extended half-time interval - the floodlights, like the German side, suffered a power failure - and told him that the game offered an opportunity to lay the foundations for an international career. In keeping with his colleagues, he just needed to be more confident. "It was a psychological thing," explained the manager, "facing the white jerseys of the European champions." Others who probably booked their places for the June double header were Alan Johnston, of Sunderland, whose old-fashioned winger's skills exposed a defensive weakness in Bayern Munich's Thomas Strunz that will not have gone unnoticed by Alex Ferguson and Ryan Giggs.

Callum Davidson, the Blackburn left-back, gave another assured display, which included an "assist" on the goal. The commitment of Colin Hendrie, Tom Boyd and Lambert made nonsense of suggestions that they would be saving themselves for the Celtic-Rangers match.

Churlish as it may sound to point out weaknesses, David Weir's positional sense at right-back was not all it might have been. Colin Calderwood, who is playing regularly in the Premiership again after signing for Aston Villa, might be a more judicious choice.

Craig Burley should also return, at the expense of Scot Gemmill or Ian Durrant, with Hutchison perhaps joining him in midfield. Up front, the work-rate of Billy Dods may not be enough to prevent Neil McCann being given the chance to build on a performance of great promise against the Czechs.



Germany's goalkeeper Jens Lehmann surveys an incredible scoreline in Bremen on Wednesday night. Reuters

Whoever starts the next game, Brown deserves enormous credit for his shrewd marshalling of depleted resources. Many managers, conscious of how a win in Germany would look on their CV, would have been tempted to leave well alone. He stuck to his promise not to over-exert players at a critical point in the domestic campaign and, in the closing stages, bravely blooded the

Hearts' pair Paul Ritchie and Colin Cameron.

Brown may have felt some sympathy for his opposite number, Erich Ribbeck. Germany's coach was mauled by the media after a 3-0 defeat in the United States but argued in mitigation that the match came during the Bundesliga's winter break. There could be no such excuses on this occasion.

One kept waiting for the

Germans to press the button and move into top gear, yet it never happened. We can not know whether things would have been different in a competitive game, but there were signs that the three-time world champions genuinely do not have a generation coming through to replace Klinsmann, Kohler and company.

Lothar Matthäus, while still their main creative force,

looked his 38 years in the second half. Oliver Bierhoff did not show the sharpness expected of a player who averages two goals every three games for his country. Only the Italian-based midfielder Jörg Heinrich revealed the expected quality.

Ribbeck, who noted that "it sounds as if there were 27,000 Scots in the stadium", may struggle to ensure Germany defend their title next year.

German pride at a low pitch

THE GERMAN television commentator's desperation grew. "Where is the cross, where is the cross?" he asked. The first useful one came after 60 minutes. Then there was one good attempt at goal from Ulf Kirsten. And that was that, as the national team went down to a 1-0 defeat against Scotland, after being completely outplayed in the second half.

This cannot be the sum total of German football, everybody agrees, but then, they have just lost to a country ranked No 28 in the world, having already been beaten by the United States in a friendly and Turkey in a Euro 2000 qualifier.

That cross, eagerly awaited by strikers of the calibre of Oliver Bierhoff, never came. Why, no one can understand. Almost all the plausible national players were on show, including the talented gang from Bayern Munich. The manager tried them in all kinds of permutations, but still they were unable to string three decent passes together.

Perhaps it is because of all that chopping and changing that the team cannot gel, argue the critics. "There is no more time for experiments," declared Bild, the leading national tabloid. The next game, on 4 June, is a qualifier against Moldova.

BY IMRE KARACS
in Berlin

It is likely that Germany will win that game, just as they triumphed recently in Northern Ireland despite all the talk of a deep crisis. They will probably qualify from a weak group, but that cannot conceal the fact that German football is in trouble, with the former international Guntar Netzer laying the blame on "our lack of creative players".

After the resignation of Berti Vogts last year, Germany was lumbered with Erich Ribbeck as national coach, because no one else wanted the job. To suggest that Ribbeck is not highly rated would be an understatement. But it is his unenviable task to build a new team after the old boys who represented the country at the World Cup, retired. Ribbeck must experiment, because almost none of the newcomers, ignored by Vogts and now in their late 20s, has enough experience at international level. And because he keeps changing them, none are given a real chance now.

Consequently, the team is demoralised and the same papers that hounded Vogts out of his job are now clamouring for his return.

Understudies display talent

WHILE SOME of the Republic of Ireland's leading performers rested between engagements this week, their understudies took the chance to show the depth of talent available to Mick McCarthy. The bonus was to inflict a 2-0 defeat on Sweden, who, as their next Euro 2000 opponents, England, know, have performed as well as almost any country over the first half of the qualifying competition.

Losing five players to injuries, agreeing to take off three more at half-time and resting another two until the last quarter of the game, McCarthy must have wondered how well the Irish would come out of Wednesday's engagement; all the more so after a first 45 minutes in which they created one scoring chance. In fact, it was once the reserves had taken centre stage that a plodding production turned into something more vibrant, with an unlikely cast list finally bringing the audience to their feet.

Stoke's Graham Kavanagh,

BY STEVE TONGUE

a greying 25 year-old from the Second Division, Kevin Kilbane of West Bromwich Albion and Nancy's Tony Casciaro, 36, all won applause with their contributions. There was a welcome break too for Mark Kennedy.

In defence Kenny Cunningham confirmed what McCarthy has known from their days together at Millwall, that he can play as capably in the centre as at right-back, a position Tottenham's Stephen Carr suggested he could fill in the longer term. Carr is one of those must be looking forward to the move away from Lansdowne Road's rugby pitch to Dublin's proposed new stadium.

The Dublin football public clearly appreciate the quality and commitment of the squad, echoed by McCarthy when he said: "I'm so delighted at the squad that turned up here, and players coming in wanting to play, even with little knocks and niggles. I really was."

Welling seek escape route

WELLING UNITED will be hoping that Cheltenham Town are still relaxing tomorrow, after securing the Nationwide Conference title last week.

The Gloucestershire club have lost both the games they have played since clinching the championship, and if they go down again tomorrow at home to Welling, the Kent side will avoid relegation.

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

Welling could be safe even if they lose - as long as Barrow are also defeated by a similar margin at Kidderminster, who will be playing their last match under Phil Mullen's management before the summer arrival

of Jan Mulry, the former Liverpool midfielder. Welling and Barrow both have 40 points, but the Cumbrians are in the bottom three because their goal difference is inferior by three.

Welling gave themselves a good chance of escaping the drop with Monday's 4-2 win at Leek, a result which sent the Staffordshire side down along with Farnborough.

Altrincham sealed promotion from the United League with Tuesday's 3-0 win at Frickley Athletic. The Cheshire club will join Sutton United and Nuneaton Borough in the Conference next season.

Garry Hill has resigned as manager of St Albans City and will take charge of their Ryman League rivals, Dagenham & Redbridge, next season.

McCarthy eludes Barnsley

BARNSELY'S QUEST to bring the Republic of Ireland manager, Mick McCarthy, to Oakwell is on the verge of collapse over a compensation dispute.

McCarthy, a hero at Oakwell as a player, is the man Barnsley want to replace John Hendrie as their manager. He was keen to bring his assistant Ian Evans, another former Barnsley player, with him as part of the package, but the Football Association of Ireland has asked for around £500,000 in compensation for both McCarthy and Evans.

Barnsley are unwilling to pay such a sum for a new management team and have started to look for alternatives. McCarthy was keen to help Barnsley and was interested in a joint role with both club and country, but the First Division team are insisting on a full-time appointment.

BY ALAN NIXON

The Everton manager, Walter Smith, is trying to sign the winger Lee Sharpe from Leeds United in a £1m deal. The former Manchester United player is currently on loan at Bradford City, and is keen to leave Leeds permanently.

Newcastle United have been linked with Marcelino, Real Mallorca's Spanish international centre-back. The Magpies' manager, Rudi Gullit, has made a £8m bid for the 28-year-old, according to reports in the Spanish media.

Real Madrid and Juventus have begun negotiations that could see Clarence Seedorf and Zinedine Zidane swap clubs. The Spanish side are desperate to sign Zidane, France's World Cup hero, and could let Seedorf, their Dutch midfielder, move to Italy as part of the

deal. Real are also prepared to part with their Brazilian left-back Roberto Carlos and their Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic to secure Zidane.

Zidane plus three Manchester United players, David Beckham, Dwight Yorke and Ryan Giggs, are all part of a £1m All-Star squad which has been selected to play Australia to open the new Olympic stadium in Sydney on 12 June.

Manchester United's latest international Wes Brown, who made his senior England debut in Hungary on Wednesday, has been rewarded for a successful season at Old Trafford with a new five-year contract.

The Charlton defender Richard Rufus has escaped a four-match suspension following his recent red card against Leeds. He was brought before a Football Association disciplinary commission for alleged

violent conduct but, after viewing video evidence, the panel judged that no further action was warranted and lifted the suspension.

Leeds' former Charlton midfielder Lee Bowyer also escaped a suspension: he was warned about his future conduct and fined £750 after picking up 11 bookings this season.

The wages of Premiership players increased by 40 per cent last season, according to estimates published by the accountants Deloitte & Touche. The total wage bill for the Premiership in the 1997-98 season was three-and-a-half times higher than in 1992-93. The best-paying club was Chelsea, with a wage and salary bill for last season of nearly £27m, followed by Manchester United with £26.9m, Liverpool with £24.1m and Newcastle United with £22.3m.

| WEDNESDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE. | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Draw date: 28/04/99. The winning numbers: 15, 23, 24, 36, 43, 49. Bonus number: 11. | | | |
| Total Sales: £27,780,701. Prize Fund: £12,501,315 (45% of ticket sales). | | | |
| CATEGORY | NO. OF WINNERS | AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER | TOTAL EACH TIER |
| Match 6 (Jackpot) | 1 | £4,381,725 | £4,381,725 |
| Match 5 plus bonus ball | 0 | £149,802 | £1,348,218 |
| Match 5 | 319 | £2,641 | £842,479 |
| Match 4 | 19,942 | £92 | £1,834,684 |
| Match 3 | 407,492 | £10 | £4,074,920 |
| TOTALS | 427,763 | | £12,482,006 |

© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £19,306.

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

15/10/98

f youth

County Championship: Derbyshire poised for victory while Lancashire and Worcestershire are made to struggle

Ealham upholds Kent's honour

THE PAST exploits of Kent players have been frozen, framed and hung everywhere at Canterbury in the visitors' dressing-room and on the stairwell leading up to it in an attempt to gain a psychological edge and to remind the home squad of the club's proud achievements.

On the evidence of this performance the present bunch is more deserving of a place in the county's rogues' gallery. They would certainly be hard pressed to find anything worth framing from this match.

Only Mark Ealham, with a dogged and, at times, near-stationary half century, was prepared to tough it out, staying long enough not just to make Derbyshire bat again but also to drag the match into a third day with Kent 49 runs ahead. The defeat will still be humiliating, more so since it should be Derbyshire's first victory on the ground for 40 years.

In fact Ealham's innings served merely to underline the embarrassment of their predicament as he cuddled an admirable, unbeaten 85, including a six and 16 fours during a near four-hour stay at the crease, ably supported during the extra half hour by Martin McCague, who had joined him with scores level. There was a danger of this becoming the first day-night match in the County Championship as Derbyshire pressed but failed to take the last wicket.

It is already quite clear, even this early in the season that the newly installed captain, Fleming, is going to have his work cut out to knock an undeniably talented bunch of individuals into a squad worthy of challenging for major honours.

At Kent's batting was poor first time around, there was little improvement 24 hours later.

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
at Canterbury

Kent 141 & 208-9
Derbyshire 300

Only Ealham and Fleming shovelled together any kind of a barrier against the penetrative Derbyshire attack. At least Kent's bowlers had stuck at it. Dean Headley and Ealham each picking up four wickets.

Unlike Kent, the Derbyshire batting bottle held no surprise with Cork as their stopper. His three and a half hour innings was one of great self-discipline and it was essential to the Derbyshire cause, a real captain's effort. It put Derbyshire well in charge, demoralised the opposition and left Kent with far too much to do.

Cork has begun the season rather well. He arrived at the crease with a couple of not outs in championship and one day matches. He had his moments of luck on the occasions that the persevering Kent bowlers found the edge.

But he also muddled it, helping himself to a couple of sixes and nine fours in his worthy 82. What is more he turned out to be something of a hero, having received a blow on his left elbow from a Dean Headley delivery sometime during his innings.

He and Karl Kricken supplied backbone to the cause with a 61-run stand for the seventh wicket and it was his shot which brought up the 300 and a third batting bonus point.

Cork left the action early to go to hospital for an X-ray after receiving a nasty blow on his left elbow from a Headley delivery during the morning session. Thankfully there was no fracture, just some badly-injured Kent pride.



Paul Pollard, the Worcestershire opener, edges behind to Nottinghamshire's Chris Read at Trent Bridge yesterday

Flintoff sparks a recovery

BY MIKE CAREY
at Leicester

Leicestershire 388 & 4-1
Lancashire 241

NOTHING MUCH that happened here yesterday would have come as a huge surprise to Lancashire. After Chris Lewis had completed his second successive Championship century, their batting, somewhat out of touch and definitely below strength, found the going predictably tough and the follow-on was avoided only by the efforts of their last-wicket pair.

On a day when they would have given a lot for four or five hours of the unit Mike Atherton at his most bloody-minded, Lancashire were indebted to Andy Flintoff who, as batsmen of his type are always likely to do, made his own luck in another innings which illustrated

talents as Lewis and Flintoff in impressive action on the same day could almost huff you into believing there is nothing seriously wrong with English cricket. Lewis cuts a formidable figure to world-weary bowlers at No 8. When he reached an inevitable-looking century from 157 balls, there could have been no more crestfallen figure than Lancashire's Mark Chilton, who had dropped him at 30; this will probably bring a new connection, to the term "the Chilton Hundreds". (See *Hansard* rather than *Widen* for an explanation.)

By the time Lewis and Matthew Brimmon had completed a free-wheeling last-

partner, who is not built for quick singles, overlooked the important modern principle that it does not pay to hesitate over a run when you have played the ball firmly to the only Australian present; Mike Kasprovic's throw from mid-off was low and fast, and Paul Nixon did the rest.

Kasprovic himself found a good one for Flintoff, though if Lancashire needed proof it was not their day, it came from the dismissal of Mike Watkinson. He cut Brimmon firmly onto the foot of silly point, whence the ball lobbed to cover where the diving James Whitaker completed a catch which was upheld after the umpires had conferred.

Rice describes Drakes, the

Bajan all-rounder, as the best player not taking part in the World Cup. He could not be picked, under West Indies selection criteria, because he plays his cricket with Border in South Africa, rather than back home in the Buxta Cup. Never mind that the finished the most recent South African season with 56 first class wickets - only two short of the domestic record.

Botham's England warning

IAN BOTHAM has criticised England's decision to allow members of their World Cup squad to play in county matches during the build-up to this summer's tournament.

The former England captain believes the selectors could have made a major mistake in allowing their 15-strong squad to play for their counties immediately after returning from their disappointing Coca-Cola Cup display in Sharjah.

Lancashire's all-rounder Ian Austin has already been forced to pull out of his county's current Championship match with Leicestershire due to a thigh strain and Botham fears other players could suffer similar injuries playing the county game.

"Form is difficult to judge at this time of year and I think it's a mistake to see players playing county cricket before the World Cup," Botham said. "It's stupid to risk someone picking up a hamstring strain or something like that."

"I get the impression the boys are all playing county cricket now because they didn't play very well in Sharjah, which I don't agree with."

Botham feels England should have sent the squad on an Australian-style bonding session.

"I'd have sent them away on a bloc out of the way for five or six days to get to know each other and do a bit of bonding," he said. "The Australians do everything together and it reflects in the way they play."

Cox hits fine 173 in first innings

JAMIE COX marked his first County Championship innings with a brilliant 173 as Somerset took control on the opening day against Yorkshire at Taunton yesterday.

The new Somerset captain lost the toss and saw Peter Bowler bowled by the last ball of Chris Silverwood's first over. But that was the low point in Cox's day. He went on to strike 25 fours and a six, batting for just under five and a half hours in leading his side to 362 for 6 at the close. It was a mastery display by the 29-year-old Tasmanian, whose textbook driving was a feature of a memorable knock.

An unbeaten 78 by the opener Toby Peirce guided Sussex into a peaceful position over Glamorgan at the close of the second day in Cardiff. Sussex bowled out a Glamorgan side depleted by the absence of their injured captain, Matthew Maynard, and at the close they had reached 136 for 5, already 209 runs ahead with five second-innings wickets standing.

Mark Ramprakash guided Middlesex out of trouble with an unbeaten 76 against Gloucestershire at Bristol. Showing great patience and excellent shot selection on a slow pitch, Ramprakash, aided by David Nash, took his side from a troubled 122 for 5 at tea to 196 for 5 in reply to Gloucestershire's 297.

Essex kept Warwickshire in the field for most of the day at Chelmsford, but failed to claim a batting point. Their progress was so slow that the innings was in the 100th over when the final wicket fell at 191, leaving the visitors with a useful first-innings lead of 80. At least Essex, bottom of the Championship last season, did not give their wickets away cheaply and showed plenty of determination.

PPP Healthcare County Championship

Somerset v Yorkshire

TAUNTON (Day 1 of 4): Somerset (4 pss) have scored 362 for 6 wickets against Yorkshire (2 pss)

Yorkshire won toss

SOMERSET - First Innings

P D Bowler b Silverwood... 173

Toby Peirce b Silverwood... 78

M A Burns c McGrath b Hoggard... 12

J D Kerr c McGrath b Hoggard... 12

J P Turner not out... 29

K A Parsons not out... 6

Total (for 6 wickets)... 362

Fall: 1-6, 2-67, 3-162, 4-300, 5-313, 6-351.

Bye: M A Burns 1, P D Bowler 1, J D Kerr 1, J P Turner 1, K A Parsons 1.

Extras: 16 (4 b, 12 nb).

Umpires: P Willey and V A Holder.

Overseas: P Willey and V A Holder.

Overseas: P Willey and V A Holder.

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Overseas: P Willey and V A Holder.

Essex v Warwickshire

CHELMSFORD (Day 2 of 4): Warwickshire (6 pss) are leading Essex (4 pss) by 84 runs with 8 second-innings wickets in hand

Essex won toss

WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings

D J Robinson bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

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M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

M C Croft bow b Giddins... 30

Gloucestershire v Middlesex

BRISTOL (Day 2 of 4): Middlesex (4 pss) are trailing Gloucestershire (4 pss) by 101 runs with 5 first-innings wickets in hand

Gloucestershire won toss

MIDDLESEX - First Innings

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

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R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

R C Russell bow b Fraser... 36

Leicestershire v Lancashire

LEICESTER (Day 2 of 4): Leicestershire (8 pss) are leading Lancashire (8 pss) by 151 runs with 9 second-innings wickets in hand

Leicestershire won toss

LANCASHIRE - First Innings

D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

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D J Maddy bow b Chapple... 2

Nottinghamshire v Surrey

NOTTINGHAM (Day 2 of 4): Nottinghamshire (5 pss) are leading Surrey (5 pss) by 80 runs with 8 second-innings wickets in hand

Nottinghamshire won toss

SURREY - First Innings

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

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M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor... 52

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire

TRENT BRIDGE (Day 2 of 4): Worcestershire (3 pss), led by Paul Pollard, are leading Nottinghamshire (3 pss) by 151 runs with 9 second-innings wickets in hand

Worcestershire won toss

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - First Innings

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

C M W Read c Sherriff... 1

SPORT

TAMING OF THE RAGING RHINO P25 • HOW GREAT COULD SENNA HAVE BEEN? P24

Football Association set to agree contract after nation's favourite declares willingness to accept full-time job as England coach

Wembley won me over - Keegan

WEMBLEY'S DAYS may be numbered but, if Kevin Keegan's reign proves to be a success, the old Empire Stadium will have performed one last service to English football before being dismantled next year.

"Wembley was a massive influence," admitted Keegan as he reflected yesterday on his decision to accept the Football Association's offer to be England's full-time, long-term, coach. "Just walking out there against Poland [his first match as caretaker] I felt very at ease and comfortable. I love Wembley. I used to love just being in the commentary box. It's a long way from the pitch up in the gantry and a part of me was always saying: 'I want to be down there, picking the team'.

The atmosphere surround-

BY GLENN MOORE

ing England's 3-1 win that day played on Keegan's mind as he got on with the task of leading Fulham to the Second Division championship. When that was achieved last week he felt he was finally free to give in to his dreams.

He added: "If the guy at Fulham, Mr [Mohammed] Al Fayed, had not been so good to me it would have been easier but my heart tells me to take it and I've got to let that be my judge. It will be full-time though there may be a transition stage while we get Fulham sorted out. That is important to me and I won't rush it.

"I've had a good look at the job, I've really enjoyed it. It doesn't worry me, it doesn't scare me. I

can see the pitfalls but I can also see a lot of pluses and working with the players had been an absolute dream - I hope, really hope, they are pleased about this. I think for their benefit as well, with the two European Championship qualifying games [against Sweden and Bulgaria] coming up in June, it will be good that we can now get on with it.

"My circumstances were difficult and still are but you shouldn't be picky about the England job and there was always the chance that it wouldn't come round again."

The FA will now meet Keegan to hammer out a contract. David Davies, the acting chief executive, will lead negotiations with Geoff Thompson, the acting chairman, who appears to have been won over to the idea of a

long-term Keegan reign, having stated in an interview in February that such a move "might end in tears rather than trophies".

Keegan is likely to be offered around £750,000 per year, including bonuses, more than double Glenn Hoddle's salary. This is still below several Premiership managers but the England post also brings potentially lucrative spin-offs.

Once Keegan has the Fulham issue settled, and he is likely to remain involved in an advisory capacity which may include transfer dealings, he will be able to give England the time he has realised it needs.

"I'm not a fool," he said, "I don't want to compromise either job and I don't think it is possible to do both the way I am doing at the moment."

Being full-time with England will enable him, he added, to "feel better prepared than I have been for Poland and Hungary. I have good people helping me but it means I can do a little bit more myself. I would like to go and see the teams play at least once, I think an England manager should do that." He will also be able to watch Premiership matches.

Arthur Cox and Derek Fazzackerley, who were brought into the England set-up by Keegan, are likely to be offered long-term contracts while some of the staff he inherited, like Ray Clemence, may have theirs extended.

Howard Wilkinson, the FA's director of football, may continue to have a closer involvement than Hoddle had permitted.

This "team" provides some

of the tactical expertise Keegan willingly admits he lacks. Reminded of his comment "I'm not your man if you want a nil-nil draw in Ukraine", he simply grinned and said: "Would you accept one-one?"

Alan Shearer, who welcomed the appointment, alluded to this when he said: "He's been no different to when I played under him at Newcastle United. He is a player's manager. He's on their wavelength. There aren't a tremendous amount of tactics, he's proved that down the years. He just says: 'Show me what you can do.' The last two games he's done that. You want to play for him because of his attitude, you want to give your all; not just because you are wearing an England shirt, it's because it is him as well."

Shearer, who always claimed England's poor displays in Hoddle's last months did not indicate a falling relationship with the manager added: "The performances we have given under him show what we think of him."

Martin Keown spoke in similar vein when he said: "I feel so relaxed when I come to play for England now and I always play better when I'm like that."

"He's the right man for the job, there is no real barrier between manager and players and that makes you comfortable."

Keegan certainly seems at ease. He added: "I'm not frightened by the media. I know what's coming if I'm not successful but I've got a real chance, that's the key. I don't



Keegan: Confident

want to be a failure. I'm not used to it. I just feel we've got so much going for us. I'm not going to start talking about winning World Cups but we have a lot of good kids coming through."

Bracewell in the Fulham frame

WITH KEVIN Keegan's announcement that he wishes to take on the role as England coach on a full-time basis, the time has come for Fulham fans to face up to the prospect of life without their beloved K.C. First Division football will be played under a new manager next season, possibly Paul Bracewell, the incumbent player-coach.

Keegan seems determined to let Fulham down gently, still insisting he has a part to play there, but the unlikely love affair that has lasted for more than 18 months looks more and more doomed.

"They [Fulham] know my decision and what is going to happen and they are still saying: 'Is there any way you can stay at Fulham in some capacity?'" Keegan said after Wednesday night's game in Budapest. "It is possible to still do something at Fulham but I promise I won't just take a position and have a name there if I feel I can't contribute, despite the fact they want to offer me some money for it. I wouldn't take it."

"I've always said my loyalty is to Fulham and Fulham fans and to the players, who are fantastic. I've got to get that right first so I won't rush it. It is a major concern for me. My message to the Fulham fans is simple: I'm determined the club should continue to go upward."

While the club itself reacted with a staunch stonewalling in

BY ADAM SZRETER

the face of speculation concerning Keegan's successor, the supporters wasted no time expressing indignation at Keegan's decision. On the Fulham Independent website, there were one or two sympathetic voices, thanking Keegan for all he had achieved, but the overall impression was that his avowed loyalty to Fulham was beginning to wear thin.

"We're Fulham FC, not Kevin Keegan FC" and "It will be nice to be Fulham again and not Kevin Keegan's Media XI" were a couple of the messages, while others referred to Keegan's "self-importance" and how they feel they have been misled by his deliberations. "There's only one man who is indispensable and that's Mohammed Al Fayed," said another, while there was even a suggestion that "Big Mo", as he is affectionately known in SW6, might "do a Ron Noades" and take over as manager himself.

Bracewell though has emerged as the No 1 contender and he seems to be a popular choice with the fans. The former Everton, Newcastle United and Sunderland midfielder impressed the Cottage faithful by taking a pay cut to join them in the first place.

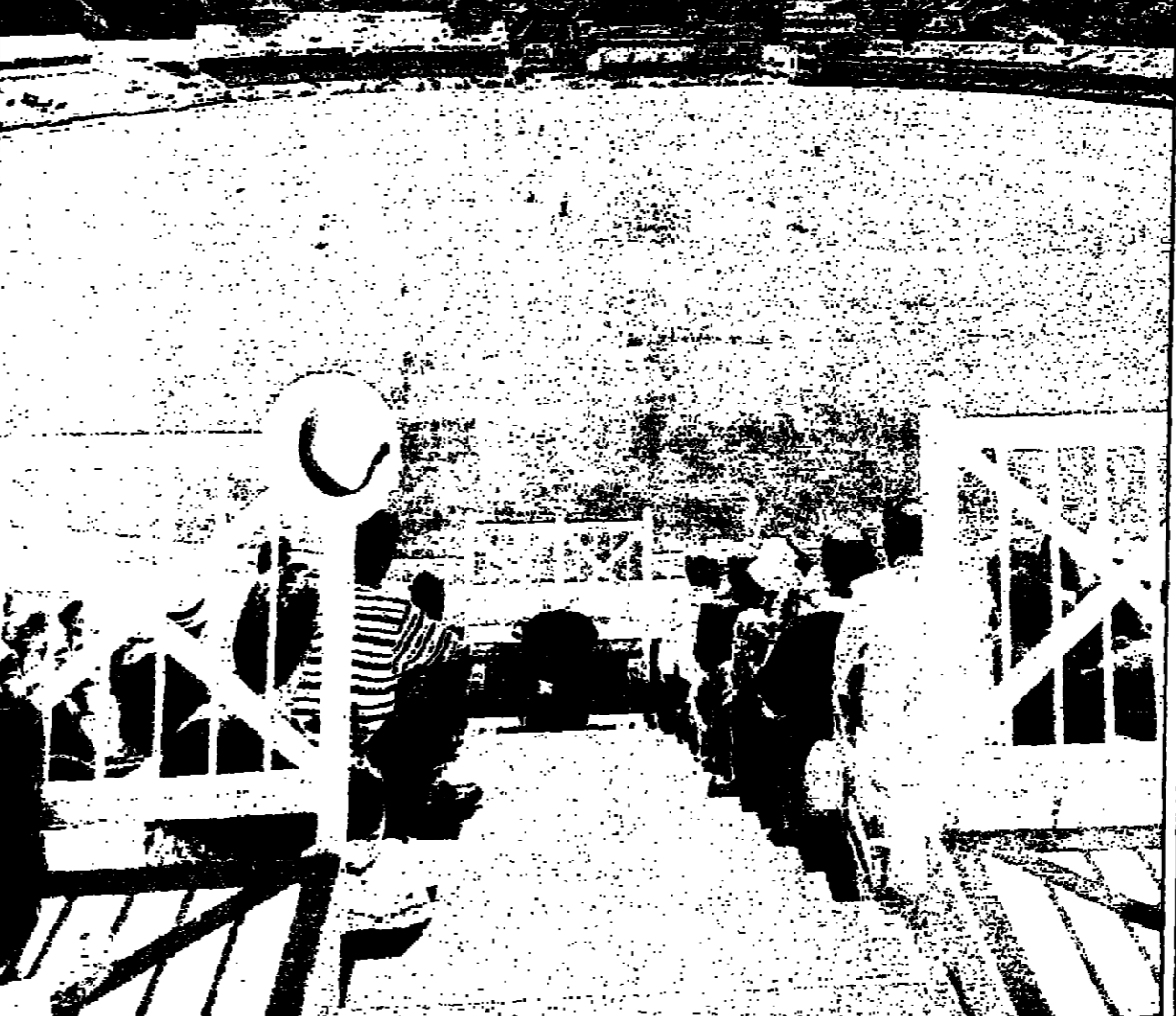
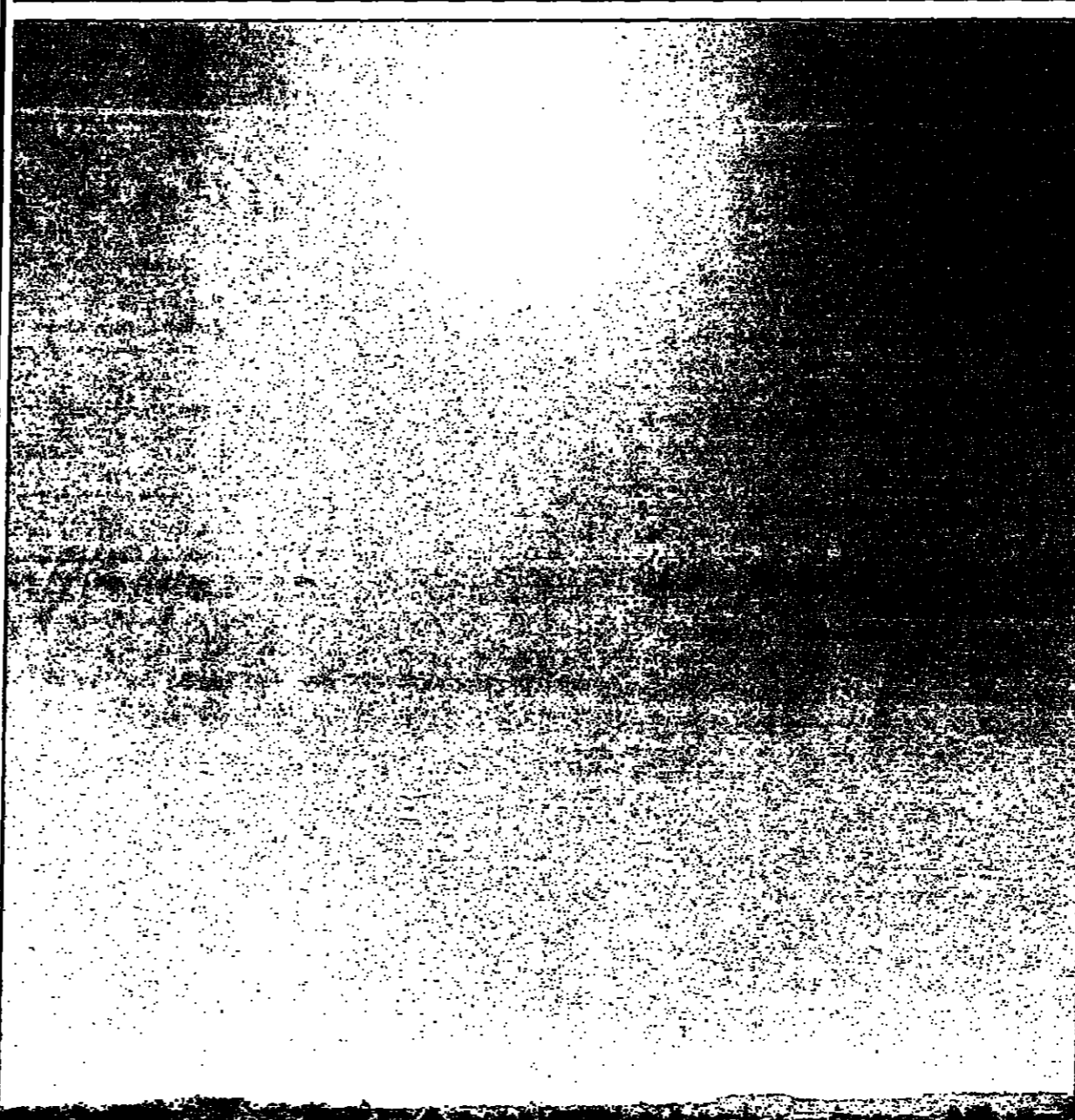
Furthermore if Keegan, who has a five per cent share in the club, stays on in his former ca-

capacity of chief operating officer, it will be easier for someone untried in management such as Bracewell to work with Keegan hovering upstairs. A similar arrangement with Ray Wilkins was a conspicuous failure, and it would almost certainly be a stumbling block for Al Fayed should he wish to appoint a more experienced man.

The idea of Bracewell running the show without Keegan will probably not appeal to Al Fayed quite so much, and should Keegan relinquish all interest in the club the chairman will almost certainly want someone with a profile high enough to attract the best to Craven Cottage, using the £12m Al Fayed has promised for new players this summer as profitably as Keegan has spent the £23m he has already invested.

Of those mentioned in the past Raul Gullit will still be under consideration, but with Newcastle reaching the FA Cup final and showing distinct signs of life once more it may be harder now to entice the Dutchman back to the capital.

Other contenders include Leicester City's Martin O'Neill and the former England manager Bobby Robson, who played for and managed Fulham. However, the prospect of causing a nuisance next door to his former employees, Chelsea, not to mention a salary in excess of £1m a year might yet appeal to Gullit.



The scene at an almost tropically sunny Trent Bridge yesterday is a far cry from the hail and snow that greeted the start of cricket's County Championship season earlier this month. Worcestershire ended the day at the Nottingham Test venue struggling on 54 for 2 in their second in-

Higgins gets run for his money

SNOOKER

BY GUY HODGSON
at the Crucible

MARK WILLIAMS is nothing if not an ebullient character. "You know why I want to win the world championship," he boomed out during a press conference, "because Ian Doyle said he'll kiss my arse if I do." People are paying penance in church in the hope photographers are absent.

As he said it, the expectation was he would be getting a caning from the defending champion John Higgins, rather than a kiss on the cheeks from his manager; but, after the first session of their Embassy World Championship semi-final yesterday, Williams was leading 5-3.

The bookmakers were quoting odds of 11-2 about the 24-year-old Welshman winning his first world title, but Williams' form this season suggested the match was going to be tight.

He is ranked third in the provisional rankings for next year and a measure of his achievements is that his taking of the Irish and Welsh Opens and the Thailand Masters makes him only the fourth player in history after Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry and Higgins to win three ranking events in a season.

The man from Cwm has been talking a promising game too, saying he could not be in a better frame of mind. "I feel good, very good," he said before meeting Higgins. "I can't wait to get at him."

A feature of Higgins' matches at the Crucible has been the rocket-charged start. Crush your opponent early and pieces are too spread to be re-assembled and, so far, the cleaners have had to tidy the mess of Gerard Greene (7-1), Mark King (8-0) and Stephen Lee (8-0) after the first sessions.

You can imagine the foreboding, then, when Williams knocked up a 49 only to sit in his chair as Higgins compiled a 72 to take the first frame.

However, Williams responded by taking the next 64-53 and then added breaks of 104, 101, 66 and 82 to earn his advantage to take into today. Higgins had only one show of defiance, a 128 in the sixth frame. So far the 1998 champion has been able to coast in the second and third sessions; today will be different.

This is Williams' third appearance at the Crucible and he announced his arrival in 1997 by beating Terry Griffiths 10-9 on the last black before losing to Hendry. Last year he reached the semi-finals only to lose 17-13 to Ken Doherty. But whereas last year he was hoping to win, this time he expects to.

Yesterday his mind appeared to be wholly on the job. The first day was his and he now needs 12 frames to reach his first world final.

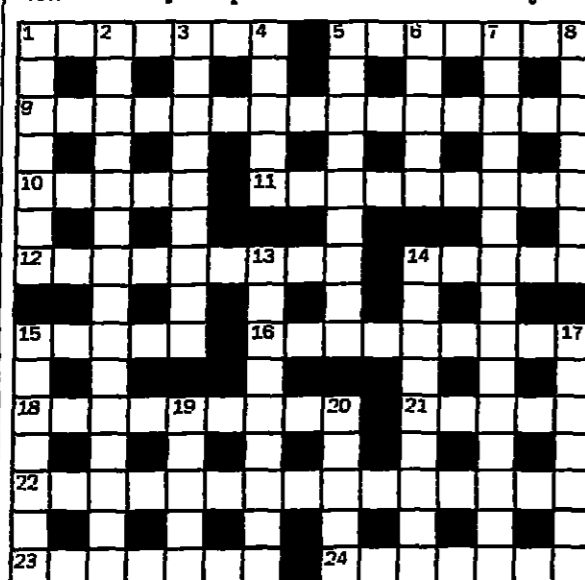
Embassy World Championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield): Semi-finals: M Williams (Wel) leads J Higgins (Sco) 5-3. Resumes today.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No.3910 Friday 30 April

by Phi

Thursday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Animal, sea, depicted in conductor's headgear? (4-3)
 - Become less liverish, alling, after one's taken (7)
 - Comic play now capped feature of murder mystery? (7,8)
 - I cut short attack, capturing Queen of a Middle Eastern country (5)
 - Metal-coloured bullets flying round both sides of entourage (5-4)
 - Army hardware I landed in lunar seas (9)
 - Like some comedy mostly accompanying heartless tragedy (5)
 - Vigorous university lecturer turned around a place in a mess (5)
 - A variety of sport etc
- DOWN**
- Service book is containing suitable opening for minister (7)
 - Evidence that holidaying in Italy can be murder? (3,5,3)
 - Uproar about man linked

to obscure scientific discipline (9)
Birds will embrace university chap (5)
Old friend showing lack of resolution (9)
The King and I set shows star (5)
Figure first encountered in important study of forces (5,10)
Clear wrecking US city is a crime (7)
Comic turns feel envious (9)
Which nut arranged the start of this persecution? (5-4)
Why one must use the stairs to make an ascent? (4,3)
Admiration the others showed about chest muscle (7)
Sharp point ripped round top of fiversack (5)
Accumulated money, except for a penny, as before (5)

Handwritten signature or stamp.

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



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Outpouring of grief

Sir: Grief is not all about investing celebrity figures with too much power ("Death by television", 28 April). National grief enables us to recognise how certain high-profile public figures can embody much that is positive and good and life-affirming.

Rather than snipe at the woman who was reawakened to the horror of violence by Miss Dando's death or profess astonishment that untidy-looking people will send £20 bouquets to her home in a text, we should perhaps be relieved that we still have this capacity to be moved by personal tragedy.

Christ, the man of sorrows, always honoured the sacred space in each human heart that is given to mourning (Matthew 5:4). It seems mean-spirited that people should now argue about the justification for grief, and who does and who doesn't have the right to feel it.

There is always the hope that those who knew Jill best, and whose lives will never be the same, will gain comfort from the knowledge that other "ordinary people" want to stand alongside them in their loss. I can't see anything sick or wicked in that. The Rev M GRAHAM BLYTH
Dunbury, Essex.

Sir: Will Deborah Orr ("Death by television", 28 April) kindly speak for herself when she insists that "we" all mourn Jill Dando even though we did not know her, just as "we" were supposed to do for Diana, Princess of Wales. While obviously concerned at this brutal murder, I am not in the slightest bit personally involved.

As with Diana, an outburst of meekish gushing, not from the people but from journalists, obscures the real issues. The Princess was driven to her death by someone under the influence of drink and drugs and driving too fast. In a badly signed tunnel not built to the best standards. This scenario is all too typical in France, where three times as many people die on the roads as here. I drive round Paris several times a year and might have hoped that Diana's death would provoke a discussion of these issues. Instead, we get an outburst of cod grief.

In the case of Jill Dando, the villain of the piece is the BBC. Programmes like *Crimewatch* look at crime in a manner both prurient and sanctimonious. They create the myth that we can all catch criminals and improve society if we are vigilant enough, and in so doing sideline the real reasons for rising crime. Meanwhile, the likes of Jill Dando are sitting targets. JOSIE EDWARDS
London N10

Sir: Both Deborah Orr's article and your editorial ("A disturbing trend in our modern society", 28 April) were right to be concerned about the nature of the public outpouring of grief following Jill Dando's death. However, I think it is wrong to suggest that this grief is either purely selfish or recreational.

Rather than the cult of celebrity being the main culprit, blame lies with the loss of a sense of community in our society. When a loved one dies, many of us are in the situation where that grief cannot be shared by those around us, because they do not know us or what goes on in our lives. We can no longer expect the support and sympathy which people once received from their neighbours.

Nowadays, though, with the shared knowledge of, or imagined friendship with, public figures such as Jill Dando, or Diana, Princess of Wales, that experience of a shared grief can in some sense be regained.

Our society is all too celebrity-obsessed, intrusive and prurient, but I would suggest that of greater concern, and perhaps a contributory factor, is the finding that one in four of us (under 55) has no kind of relationship with our next-door neighbour. MOIRA LANGSTON
London W15

Sir: I personally was never able to understand the canonisation of Diana. In the case of Jill Dando, however, Deborah Orr has got it wrong in quite spectacular fashion.

The public has reacted the way it has because of the universal reaction of family, friends and colleagues. Without exception they have said that Jill Dando's private persona was exactly what she projected to the public. Therefore the public did know her. M COLLINS
Dover, Kent

NHS shakeup

Sir: You have recently commented on plans to make nurses the filtering system for general practice ("Say goodbye to your local GP", 29 April). There is talk of nurse empowerment, public access, doctor specialisation etc. As a cynical chartered accountant married to a practice nurse at the forefront of the changes I have to point out that the main reason for the changes is not mentioned: nurses are paid at one third of a doctor's rate. STEPHEN ALEXANDER
Twickenham, Middlesex

Sir: Jeremy Laurence fails to understand the nature and value of family medicine in Britain. The Government's proposals for walk-in clinics and the fast expansion of NHS Direct are questionable responses to patients' needs.

The essential features of United Kingdom general practice are the registered patient list, continuity of care, comprehensive care relating to all age groups and across all disease groups and the unified medical record. International evidence indicates that these are vitally important to the cost-effectiveness of the UK health system and to the quality of health outcomes in this country. Countries that provide primary care services without these essential attributes demonstrate fragmentation of care, more

expensive care, and often poorer health outcomes.

Health care within a state-funded system with limited resources cannot be made available as if it was a consumer benefit equivalent to shopping at the supermarket. An appropriate level of restraint on the part of individuals in relation to self-limiting and non-serious medical symptoms and conditions is vital. A populist and consumerist approach to the provision of health care is likely to lead to inappropriate care, waste of scarce resources and increased health inequalities.

On behalf of the Royal College of General Practitioners I have spent a considerable amount of time collaborating with the profession and governments overseas in developing primary care systems. It is ironic to find that other countries are increasingly valuing and copying the essential features of our primary care system at a time when our own government, in spite of its rhetoric in support of primary care, proposes untried and unevaluated systems which have the potential to damage and degrade the service. A more sensible approach

Sir: David Aaronovitch misunderstands the nature of Tory objections to state provision of health and education ("William Hague is leading his party into freedom (from government)", 29 April). It is nothing so highbrow as seeking to "relieve the burden of the collective on the individual". It is simply that the private provision of services - with lots of lovely profits, share dividends and directors' fees - makes it far easier for the Conservative Party's friends and contributors to line their pockets. TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE
Bristol

Sir: David Lister's piece (28 April) with its picture of the

would be to provide the additional resources that are clearly available and build on the current success of our system in a collaborative way with the nursing and medical professions.

Dr PHILIP R. EVANS
Chairman, International Committee
Royal College of General Practitioners
London SW1

Sir: The transformation of the Health Service is welcomed by most GPs. The nurse-run 24-hour help line NHS Direct will be a welcome friend to the busy GP.

It will provide sensible health information and direct patients to the most appropriate health resource. It will provide an opportunity for the innovative resolution of numerous problems faced by general practice - co-ordination of out-of-hours service, single point of contact for social and community care, confidential point of contact for access to emergency contraception.

On the day that Jeremy Laurence acted as a prophet of doom I attended the launch of the New Health Network. In a complete contrast, health

professionals gathered together to highlight the transformation of the NHS and debated the exciting opportunities of implementation.

The workload of GPs had been increasing over the last decade with no comparable increase in the number of GPs. Hence, the difficulty Mr Laurence has in seeing his GP for a routine appointment.

The modernisation of the Health Service will not spell the demise of the GP; it will actually allow him or her to prosper. Dr TOM COFFEY
Primary Care Group Chair
Bathurst, Tooting & Wandsworth
PCG
London SW18

Deals with Jakarta

Sir: Dr Peter Carey (letter, 29 April) can rest assured that the Government has the East Timor and Indonesian situation well in hand.

A visit to the Foreign Office website will tell him that the "Key achievements for 1997-98" are that they have "put human rights at the heart of foreign policy" and, more interestingly, examples of practical progress include

a "human rights partnership with Indonesia".

Clearly the partnership agreement did not include the Indonesian army, whose officers have acted like the robber barons of the middle ages. Rape and pillage (not to say torture, murder and atrocities) are in fashion in East Timor and have been for the last 22 years.

Peter Carey is right that a clear, unambiguous message should be sent to Jakarta, but I can hear the Foreign Office even now... "Jobs, jobs, jobs". The same message has been sent to Jakarta for two decades or more under Labour and Tory governments whilst MPs have fumed.

Will this Government live up to its ideals or continue to export the Hawk "trainers" and have the RAF train the pilots who bombed and napalmed the poorly armed defenders of East Timor?

This country has much blood to atone for. ROGER WILLOTT
Claines, Worcestershire

Brightest spurned

Sir: The report from the Commons Education and Employment Committee notes "the needs of children of high ability are not seen as a priority by teachers and schools" ("Brightest pupils are 'betrayed'", 29 April).

The Government has introduced a performance measurement system into state schools. For primary schools the measure is the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 and no additional benefit derives from pupils achieving above level 4.

Hence, the governors of any state school who use state funds on pupils to stretch them above level 4 must be risking a charge of misuse of public funds. G P LOOSEMORE
Governor of a "very good" state primary school
Salford, West Midlands

Gainsborough loss

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's article endorsing Marlborough College's decision to sell its painting by Thomas Gainsborough is both misguided and damaging (Comment, 26 April).

Mr Whittam Smith justifies his largesse with our cultural heritage by asserting that "Britain possesses a greater treasure of art works than any country in the world, with the possible exception of the United States". While it is true that the National Gallery houses a very fine collection, there are nevertheless significant omissions which become very apparent if we compare the National with the Louvre in Paris or the Prado in Madrid. We simply cannot afford to be complacent.

Christie's estimates that the picture is worth between £3m and £5m, and although this is a relatively modest sum by today's inflated standards it is still beyond the acquisition budget of the Tate Gallery. As the national gallery of British art, the Tate is without doubt the most appropriate home for Gainsborough's wonderful group portrait.

Surely it is right for our national institutions to display our native school of art in the most comprehensive and favourable manner possible. This can only be achieved through judicious acquisitions of the finest examples of British art, as and when they come upon sale.

It is precisely because we do not enjoy a plethora of fine examples of Gainsborough's work in public collections in this country that the Marlborough Gainsborough should remain in Britain. KEVIN DRISCOLL
London WC1

Vote against war

Sir: David Mason (letter, 28 April) complains that there is no party to vote for in the coming elections that has a principled objection to the war in Kosovo.

He is quite wrong. The Green Party, which will be standing in 700 local government wards, and which will have full lists of candidates for the European, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly elections, is completely opposed to the use of force to resolve the Kosovo crisis.

We believe that a peaceful diplomatic, economic and humanitarian solution involving the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and United Nations peacekeepers and sensitive conflict resolution via independent mediators is the only way to provide a long-term solution that would benefit the ordinary people of the whole region. DAVID WOOD
Press Officer
North-East of England Green Party
Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: If the proponents of the New World Order have their way, democracy will be dead.

The starting of wars on moral grounds and against international law would entitle them to interfere, with the help of good "spin", in any country in the world.

If the UK, as the best ally of the US, cannot even decide which bananas to eat, what is in store for the rest of the world? ZORAN GACESA
London N19

As she is writ

Sir: Marius Pope's concern with mispronunciation by broadcasters (letter, 26 April) is nuffing when compared with the ubiquitous apostrophes located in plurals, as in "video's for hire".

No wonder there is a literacy problem in our school's. JANET MENAGE
Stratton on Downs, Warwickshire

Sir: Who is this man so constantly referred to on Radio 4 as the PM Minister? Is he in charge of M15, or M16? PEGGY NUTTALL
London SE11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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City Allotments No 5: A 'shanty town' of garden sheds in the Witton & District allotments in Birmingham

Andrew Fox

IN BRIEF

British Museum Reading Room "being restored using a technique pioneered by Lord Nelson" must have taken aboard many an old tar like myself. The first reference to caulking appears in the Chester Plays (1500). The Shorter Oxford gives a 1552 reference to "Styppes calked with towgh". It would have been more appropriate, as this is a reading room, to credit Ben Jonson, who alludes to "the windores" being "closed shut and calked". GRAHAM BINNS
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

Sir: In 1995 you published an article on Building Society roulette which included the following quote: "It would be a complete waste of money for anyone to put £100 into our society simply to take advantage of a possible merger, because we'd sooner die than convert. But if some poor deluded soul wants to, we're not going to stop them." This prompted me to rush out and open accounts for myself and my wife, so there are now two smiling deluded souls. The society in question was, of course, Bradford & Bingley. DAVID SHAMASH
Wantage, Oxfordshire

The hidden truth about Dylan Thomas and Iris Murdoch

SOMETIMES I tune in to the art and book shows on radio and TV and marvel how people can sound so sure of themselves when reviewing things: how Paulin and Lawson and Greer and Pearson can have such firm opinions at the drop of a hat, and how they sound as if what they are saying really matters; and at moments like this I remember the time I got involved with Iris Murdoch on a TV chat show.

It was a bookish chat show, presented by Terry Jones, who was an old mate of mine - which probably explains how I came to be on the show. Paul Theroux was on it, too, explaining why the book he had just written was so jolly good, and Dame Iris Murdoch came on to talk about philosophy. I can't remember anything she said. I can only remember all three of us sitting

there ever so respectfully, and her being whisked off to Oxford afterwards in a taxi, leaving us behind having a drink. At which point one of us said, somewhat bemusedly, that he didn't actually much like Iris Murdoch's novels. With a surge of relief, the other two of us confessed that we were bored rigid by the Dame's fiction, and had given up reading it years ago. How bravely unconventional we were!

Not brave enough to say it out loud on the programme, of course. One doesn't do things like that. And yet the things you say after a programme is over are almost always more interesting than what came out on air. This is especially true of politicians, of course, who never speak their mind or the truth on TV, but it applies to the arts mob as well. Not long ago I was asked if I

wanted to review a jazz book for Radio 3's *A Sound Read*, and a couple of other books as well, so I presently found myself reading Vikram Seth's new long novel *An Equal Music*, and a collection of Haydn studies. The Haydn book was full of classical anorak stuff that flew over my head, but the Seth was quite good fun. It's about a violinist in an English string quartet who loses and finds again the love of his life, a beautiful pianist. Unfortunately, by the time he rediscovers her she is not only married with a child, but is going very deaf, which is not a great thing for a pianist to do.

My fellow reviewer, Nicholas Spice, thought that the love story worked well, but the music stuff was badly done - the other characters in the quartet were skimpily done, the music business stuff



MILES KINGTON

'Oh,' said the producer, shocked. 'We couldn't possibly use that. I'll have to cut it'

was bad, etc. He simply wouldn't agree that the love story and the music were connected properly.

"Why did Vikram Seth's book have to be about musicians at all?" he said, as we drifted out of Broadcasting House. "Why not about well-chattered accountants? They'd be as affected by deafness as anyone, wouldn't they?"

"Maybe worse," I said. "If you get an accountant saying, 'Oh, was it 18 million?' I thought you said 18 thousand!'"

We laughed, and I thought of adding that I didn't like Iris Murdoch, but it didn't seem relevant; and on the train home I was thinking how long a concert pianist could really conceal deafness. There is a scene in the novel, set in Vienna, where the pianist plays with the string quartet, and they sense there is something wrong but they can't put their finger on it. Maybe, I suddenly thought,

thinking of Spice's accountants, maybe the mistake is to take it all too seriously. Maybe the way to play a deaf pianist is for comedy. Maybe Vikram Seth got it all wrong, and when they make the film, they should play it for laughs...

Maybe I should have thought of that on the programme. All these maybes... Maybe I shouldn't tell you this, but I was also once on a TV book programme where somebody said something wonderful and it was cut out because it wasn't the sort of thing you said on book programmes. Nigel Nicolson was on the show, as was Caitlin Thomas. Caitlin had been waffling away about Dylan Thomas, till Nicolson clearly felt he should try to help focus her reminiscences, and said to her: "Dylan was so many different things to different

people - poet, lover, friend, artist. How do you remember him?"

She swayed slightly in her chair, said firmly: "Dylan Thomas was..." and then paused. Just when we thought she had forgotten her half-finished sentence, she said: "...an utter shit", and she leant back, satisfied. The timing was perfect. I thought it was - in context - one of the funniest things I'd ever heard. There we were, all we supposedly bookish people, waiting for a bookish response, and what we got was this sublimely pathetic remark. I said to the director afterwards: "That was a priceless moment you captured on film there."

"Oh," she said, shocked. "We couldn't possibly use that. I'll have to cut it."

More fool her. Well, I'm glad I was there to hear it and record it.

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Now Israel needs an old-style leader with a vision of the future

BY THEIR gaffes shall we know them. From Winston Churchill's comparing Labour to the Gestapo, to Gerald Ford's assertion that there were no Russian troops in Poland, mistakes tend to define election campaigns more than pious promises. This week the main opposition party in Israel dropped its clanger. The One Israel Party - the Labour Party there has taken the renaming business a step beyond Blairite modernisation - failed to put Russian subtitles on the television advertisements that opened its campaign. The fuss over this omission underlines the extent to which the Israeli elections on 17 May will not be fought on the issue of peace in the Middle East - the prospects of which they have the power to make or break.

Instead, the campaign will turn on the tensions between the many ethnic and religious groups that make up the Israeli population - the 1 million recent Russian immigrants comprise one of the largest groups. For two decades Labour has been hampered by its elitist image as the party of rich, liberal and secular Jews from Western Europe. Its latest failure to reach out to new arrivals from Russia may suggest to Russian and Middle Eastern Jews that the party has changed its name, not its nature.

This is not a promising start to a campaign upon which much more depends than the sectional interests of one group of Israelis or another. It is no exaggeration to say that the stability of the whole region depends on the outcome. All the parties to a Middle East peace deal face problems of succession, and a strong, well-led Israel is needed - at worst to ensure that the region does not slip back into violence, at best to seize the opportunity for change.

Yet a nation that produced a succession of strong leaders was found wanting when Yitzhak Rabin was murdered four years ago. Shimon Peres, his successor, squandered his inheritance and was replaced by Benjamin Netanyahu, a shallow, right-wing professional politician. What is most depressing about this election campaign is that it is being fought by American consultants with their focus groups, opinion polls and reliance on TV advertisements. None of these is an evil in itself, but when they fill the space that should be filled by leadership the result is likely to be visionless populism. And Israel, more than almost any other nation, needs vision. The Oslo accord in 1993 set a deadline of next week for Israel and the Palestinians to agree on the "final status" of the Palestinian homeland - a deadline that will be missed, but needs to be rescheduled.

The most hopeful outcome would be if Ehud Barak, the old-fashioned politician who leads One Israel, and Yitzhak Mordechai of the new Centre Party, were to do a deal, and if Mr Barak were to tell the Israeli people - with Russian subtitles - that it is in their interest to live in peace with their Palestinian neighbours.



Switch off the guilt and turn on your TV

IT IS time to liberate ourselves from one of the most tenacious guilt trips of modern life. A survey reports today that nearly everyone feels guilty about watching television. We know we should be reading Conrad, listening to Mahler, visiting lonely people in hospital, mowing the lawn, playing tennis, but let's just see whether there's anything on, shall we? From the earliest days, when the picture flickered if they switched on the vacuum cleaner next door, people pretended to watch less television than they did and television sets had doors to disguise them as drinks cabinets.

One reason why we feel more guilty now is that there is more to watch. When *Have I Got News For You* featured an old BBC2 test card the other day it was surprising to be reminded, in this era of 24-hour TV, what it looked like.

Today's survey explodes the myth that poor people watch more rubbish than the better-off. The truth is that everyone watches rubbish sometimes, and that we all turn to the small screen as a comfort when we are fed up. Obviously, more old and unemployed people watch daytime programmes, because they have the time. But they feel just as guilty about it as anybody else. They shouldn't.

If television were abolished tomorrow, we would be quite capable of devising other mindless ways of occupying our time in an attempt to avoid reading great literature or attending to the needs of our less fortunate neighbours.

Although people talk of being "addicted" to TV, especially to soap operas (which men watch as keenly as women), it is a way of shutting down the cares of everyday life that is much easier to control than alcohol or other chemicals.

Enough of this negativism and snobbery. Let us admit that we watch television because we enjoy it, and that we cannot always be doing something improving and worthwhile with our time.

Give germs a chance

TELEVISION MAY do no harm, but other aspects of modern life are definitely bad for you. Doctors are puzzled by the rise and rise of allergic conditions, such as asthma, eczema and hay fever. It is often assumed that these are caused by new poisons pumped into the environment by our heavily industrialised society. But another theory is put forward in *The Lancet* tomorrow, which is that it is the very cleanliness of modern lifestyles that is making us ill. The "hygiene hypothesis" is that the lack of infections to fight plays havoc with the human immune system, and causes it to overreact to minor irritations.

All over the world, children in poorer families, who live simpler lives or who live on farms, are less likely to suffer allergies. So throw away the anti-bacterial chopping boards and cloths. Don't have a bath. Keep a chicken in the back garden. Give germs a break.

Only the man in Hush Puppies can lay the ghost of Thatcherism

THERE IS something magnificent about the way in which, almost a decade after her fall, Margaret Thatcher continues to haunt the psyche of the Conservative Party. The question of whether or not it dares step out of her shadow is unique, at least in this century. Even the lady herself, despite breaking with the era of Macmillan and Heath, felt more comfortable with her party's recent past than her successors do.

It is all the more remarkable since, at least in economics, she laid down a set of rules to which every serious modern politician now conforms. Indeed, that is just what lies behind the - for Conservatives - cruel irony that it is a Labour Prime Minister, rather than a Tory leader, who can effortlessly invoke this illustrious ghost for his own purposes.

Mr Blair can, of course, pick and choose the parts he likes: strong national leader, international beacon, union-tamer, privatiser of the nationalised industries, while eschewing those he doesn't: tribalism, social divider, *laissez-faire* individualist. The ease with which he does exactly that serves only to mock the Tories' chronic hang-up with their electorally and ideologically most successful leader this century. This is particularly so since, on the one peace-time issue on which she is most adamant - the euro - Mr Hague is on her side and Mr Blair isn't.

So why can't William Hague come to terms with his party's past? Why is so much of his energy devoted to devising a story about his relationship to the last leader but one, that will pass

muster in explaining what modern Toryism really is?

The answer can only lie in the brutal regime perpetrated more than nine years ago but still traumatising the party. The minority who were then genuinely and fearlessly confident that it was high time she went, have no difficulty in talking about her now in tones of respect. But, for the majority of the party, it is as if in childhood they had witnessed an unspeakable murder with which they are still either complicit or enraged, depending on how they voted then.

How appropriate, therefore, that Peter Lilley should now be the man being fitted up by the right wing for execution for daring to suggest that dismantling the core public services of education and health may not be the best starting-point from which to rebuild the credibility of a party brought to its knees on 1 May 1997 by an opposition committed to renewing those very services? For Lilley was always seen as a Judas in the Thatcherites' midst, the one hitherto true disciple who deserted her in her hour of need by telling her the dumbfounding news that he, too, thought she could not win a second leadership election in November 1990. He may have been on a hit list for longer than he realises.

This isn't to say that psychic trauma is the only reason for the downward spiral into which the Tory party now appears hell-bent on hurling itself. There were two problems with the Lilley lecture, the principal content of which was stoutly defended by William Hague in his speech on Wednesday night, for all the nervous



DONALD MACINTYRE

The brutal regime perpetrated nearly a decade ago is still traumatising the Conservative Party

passages of obeisance to Lady Thatcher. The first was tactical. For this, practically everybody is getting the blame. Some point to the fact that the party's chief of staff, Archie Norman, was absorbed by the merger of his company, Asda, with Kingfisher, and thus absent from the fray.

Others ask, with lethal force, what on earth Sebastian Coe, Mr Hague's chief of staff, has been doing. But whoever is to blame, a big statement of policy was to be made which apparently cut directly across the kind of hints that, say, Ann Widdecombe has been issuing, about an expanding private health sector. It should have been clear by, or at least discussed with, the Shadow Cabinet first.

It was not smart to bill a speech as breaking with Thatcherism at the time of an anniversary dinner to

mark her victory in 1979. And finally, while Francis Maude has been busily distancing himself from Mr Lilley, his own robust reaffirmation of the Tory pledge to match Labour spending on the NHS, however admirable, is tactically problematic. If the Tories are sticking by Labour's spending totals, how do they propose to pay for them other than through the "stealth taxes" which they routinely accuse Mr Brown of imposing?

The second problem, however, is more profound. If Mr Lilley's speech was not merely some bogus focus group-driven exercise to lull the electorate into a bout of further state-shrinking, then it was as dangerous - for him - as it was justified.

There is a fault-line in politics. On the one hand, some believe in NHS rationing and the use of private money to help deliver better public health and education services, with some choice within the public sector. On the other hand are those who believe in encouraging more people to go private.

Miss Widdecombe's sidetrack and junior health spokesman, Alan Duncan, almost certainly believes in the latter. So, despite energetic protestations to the contrary, did Margaret Thatcher, who was stopped from wholesale tax breaks for private health care in the late Eighties only by the stubbornness of Ken Clarke and Nigel Lawson.

Put another way, it is the fault-line between the Chris Patten-John Major view that the NHS and the education service should be so good that people won't want to go private, and Mrs T's that she wanted to be able to see the doctor she wanted, at the time she

wanted and on the day she wanted. If Mr Lilley and Mr Hague were putting themselves on the Patten-Major side of that line, Lilley was saying something genuinely important.

The problem is that it looks as though most of the Tory party is now on the other side of that line from Mr Lilley. That, and the hugely botched handling of his announcement mean, I suspect, that Mr Hague will now gradually go into retreat.

You don't have to spend much time with right-wing members of the Shadow Cabinet to form the distinct impression that the virtually unsackable Ms Widdecombe, for example, will press on regardless with a "radical" agenda. This may prove rather humiliating for Mr Hague.

Mr Hague may never be more vulnerable. But it would be rash to bet on it. It's worth remembering that not many people want the job of leading the Tories into near-certain defeat at the next general election.

It's possible that the local and European election results will be so bad that the party will turn to the man most likely to lead them out of their quagmire - Ken Clarke. But it may be that the Tories will have to suffer first a general election defeat - and then, even more importantly, one in a euro referendum - before they finally begin to realise that it is the Europhobic element of the Thatcher legacy that is really the medium-term threat to their recovery among an electorate that is deeply pragmatic about Europe. Then, and perhaps not until then, they will finally come to terms with the hideous traumas of November 1990.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My heart tells me to take it and that's what I've got to let be my judge."
Kevin Keegan, accepting the job of England coach

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The older one grows, the more one likes indecency."
Virginia Woolf, *British novelist*

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Elves in Oak Tree in Kensington Gardens by David Rose Ref 00113

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

US opinion on gun control in the wake of the Columbine High School massacre

NO AMOUNT of government regulation or parental control can protect every child from every wild whim or bizarre idea. But we can provide the tools for dealing with the conflicting messages that abound in a free society and make sure children are skilled in their use. Those tools and those skills are both more powerful and more practical than impulsive censorship can ever hope to be.
Daily Herald, Chicago

GUN CONTROL is no panacea. The strictest gun control law on the books can't make parents get more involved with their children, or reach into the angry and alienated heart of a distraught teenager. The reasons for Columbine just as surely lie in the culture of violence that pervades America, and in the moral rootlessness that seemingly has stamped this age. But in the search for reasons for Columbine, there are things we can begin to

work on, such as talking to our children, and others we can do immediately, such as stopping the flood of weapons into our communities.
Corpus Christi Caller Times

SO WE'RE going to waste taxpayers' money with some ridiculous lawsuit aimed at gun manufacturers. Why don't they also sue Bic and Zippo for arson jobs in the city each

year? Perhaps the city should look at the real problems: a corrupt school board; a Third World education system; households without fathers and a liberalized society that doesn't allow children to be punished for their misdeeds.
John Williams, Detroit News

GUN BANS don't work. Gun culture has always been with us. It's the other aspects of our culture that have changed over the last 40 years. Parents

are told they shouldn't spank their children, or they might be taken away from them. Children are not taught the difference between right and wrong, and when children do wrong, very often there are no consequences that rise to the level of the wrong committed. If one were to "magically" make every gun disappear in the US, the hard fact is that Americans would still kill each other - only without guns.
Benton County Daily Record

PANDORA

DEBBIE BEE is dummyping up a new look *Nova* for IPC to relaunch next year. The magazine was the creative peacemaker on these shores during the Sixties and Seventies, with a high-octane, monthly mix of pioneering hot fashion, social crusading and talented stars between its covers. Bee, thought to be in her thirties, is a seasoned fashionista who successfully turned around *Scene* three years ago, repositioning the troubled music title as a must-read for the glossy posse. Her name's absence from the masthead of recent issues had enquiring minds wondering where she'd gone. Now we know.

SCOTLAND'S NEW football strip has got people talking. Did its striking design take Herman German's eye off the ball this week? Enquiring minds have been wondering about the colour, too. Is it orange? Coral? Or Salmon pink?

THE CAPITAL'S 21st-century mayor has got to win the party vote. And this week Trevor Phillips pledged to campaign for 24-hour licences for the city's nightclubs, saying, "London will be a fun city." Big hat, no cattle. Trev, the lubricious Lord Archer has beaten you out of the blocks here.

Archer's smart Time Zone Devolution Bill - currently awaiting its second-reading date in the Upper Chamber - bolsters the argument for extended licensing hours, traditionally a red rag to Archer's true-blue core vote. "We have all these visitors to what is the best city in the world, but tell them to go to bed at 11 o'clock," says an Archer aide. So now we know that either an Archer or a Phillips mayorship would liberalise London into a 24/7/365 world city. What do Livingstone and Norris think? Pandora predicts we'll know sooner, not later.

DAVID LINLEY, furniture-maker, bridled like Lady Bracknell when he spied a wine glass atop one of his £20,000 tables during a New York store's promotional party. "Whose glass is that?" he asked archly. It vanished, pronto.

CAN THIS be true? Catherine Zeta Jones (left) has finally dumped film star Michael Douglas to marry former Blue Peter trophy boy John Leslie...

PICTURE IT - the Octopus publishing group is rallying its sales troops in a London hotel. The after-dinner speaker is Joseph Connolly (pictured, below), master of black comedy, quondam antiquarian bookseller and possessor of the hairiest head and chin in medalland - his flourishing beard and long, wavy hair suggesting a fabulous hybrid of Cap'n Birdseye, Karl Marx and Chewbacca from *Star Wars*.

Pre-dinner, Connolly gets edgy about making the speech and visits the gents' to chill. En route, he's spotted through the open door of an adjacent function room, where L'Oréal (the glib beauty product corporation represented in tally ads by Jennifer Aniston), is having a sales powwow of its own.

The result? Connolly is pursued into the lavs by a troika of looks-conscious L'Oréal suits, excitedly offering him a "free makeover". Stand by for the astringent J.C. on a screen near you, glaring at the camera and snarling "Because I'm worth it..."

IT'S A JUNGLE out there. It must be. Why else would the British Army offer to tutor business people at its Infantry Training Centre near Daring Lines in Wales's Brecon Hills? Pinkstripes tired of paintball can ride choppers, tackle assault courses, or be led blindfold across hostile terrain. Weapons aren't available, but mountain bikes may be; courses are individually customised and priced; they're run by "whatever units happen to be available at any particular time". An army mouthpiece contends that "the scenarios develop leadership, delegation, teamwork, imagination and decision-making under pressure". First to sign up? An eight-person crew from the Discovery Channel, who brought along the profile endurance racer James Henderson and the adventure-loving Storm model Sarah Odell to mitigate the rigours of life in uniform. Is this a new twist on camouflage chic?

CONTACT PANDORA by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Schadenfreude on a piece of elastic



PHILIP HENSHER
Grief and pain and terror are things that, in some way, the human frame requires

THE BUNGEE tower has gone. I don't think I noticed it being put up and I didn't notice it being taken down. But it's certainly gone now.

It must have appeared two or three years ago. I was cycling over Chelsea Bridge, thinking about nothing much. There was a crane, just by the power station, poised over the river. Like most people who have chosen to think of themselves as Londoners, I have a strongly aversive feel for the river. My grandmother's grandfather - I think that's right - was drowned in it at 24, fetching corpses out of the river like Gaffer Hexam in *Our Mutual Friend*, leaving a pink-cheeked Victorian widow and an infant. So I look at anything delving into the river with a bit of an investigative eye.

What purpose this crane served, however, could not immediately be seen. I stopped and looked. It was much taller than most: the height of a crane devised for major building works. It swivelled aimlessly, from land to water, and paused. At the very top there were a couple of workmen, as I thought. One, you could see, opened the cage he was standing in. And then something ap-

palling happened. A man leapt out into space, a hundred feet up, or more. I looked, interested, and not yet shocked. After him, a thick line of black trailed. There was a shout from the blue sky, and the little figure twanged at the end of the black elastic rope. He bounced, three or four times in the air, as they lowered him. It was nothing much, after all. Since then, it's become unre-

markable. In the last couple of years, the spectacle of some quivering berk flinging himself into space has been an ordinary one. You hardly stopped, after a month or two, to listen to the brave cry as someone acquired bravery by launching his trussed-up limbs into the air. It was only the sudden absence of the crane, in the end, which made me pause. I miss it, to be honest; I hope it's coming back.

Schadenfreude is a big bad motive in the human character: the desire to see other people fail, and be reassured that disaster has missed you and hit some other victim. There's another emotion, just as potent, which I don't think has a name in German or English. It's that odd, rather satisfying feeling you have when you look at somebody doing something utterly stupid, and feel relieved that you yourself would never do anything so daft. Sometimes, you almost admire the idiosyncrasy. Sometimes you may be pleased that there are people in the world prepared to do such a thing. But your feeling is one of gratitude that it isn't you, and isn't going to be you. For two years I went over

Chelsea Bridge and enjoyed watching the pointless spectacle; and not because it fulfilled some vicarious desire to bungee-jump myself. It was just interesting, and utterly without direct temptation. Our lives now are safe, on the whole. We are not going to be killed, or die prematurely of a disease; we probably won't, anyway. We are probably not going to have a great deal of grief from the premature deaths of those around us; our infants are not very likely to die in their first days; our sons are probably not going to meet their deaths on the battlefield. Of course, these things may happen to some of us, but not as they happened, routinely, to our grandparents.

But grief and pain and terror are things that, in some way, the human frame requires. If the world won't supply them, we go and find them. So we weep for the death of a television presenter we knew nothing about, or the beautiful ex-wife of the heir to the throne, hardly caring that our theatrical grief diminishes the grief of those entitled to feel it, and hardly seeing that it corrupts the grief which we, at some point, will feel for someone we really know. We

are not likely to feel the terror of a rush towards the guns, so we go to great lengths to construct a safer version of that terror, leaping from cranes with rubber ropes around our ankles. Do you suppose veterans of the Somme took to bungee-jumping in their middle age to entertain themselves?

All the same, it's quite cheering that there are people in the world happy to do these daft things. Thomas Beecham said you should do everything once except incest and folk-dancing, and it would be rather sad if even folk-dancing disappeared. I feel much the same about bungee-jumping. Christianity, the American novel and north London. Thank God, I think, I don't have to get involved in any of these things, but it's best all round, really, if there happen to be people who don't mind pursuing activities which, viewed rationally, are utterly pointless or even ridiculous.

I used to think something like this whenever I went over Chelsea Bridge and saw some twit throw himself into an ecstatic measure of safety. And now it's gone, I feel a bit sad. I wish I knew why.

Is there a magic formula for peace in the Balkans?



LAWRENCE FREEDMAN
The issue remains constant - either the refugees go home in security, or they don't

ON SUNDAY Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister, came perilously close to urging his government to concede defeat. The economy was being ruined, he warned, and the country stood isolated. It was therefore time to look seriously at ideas for a United Nations presence in Kosovo. On Wednesday he was sacked. President Milosevic was sending a clear signal: weeks of bombardment have not changed his position.

And yet Russia's special envoy, Viktor Chernomyrdin, sounded genuinely hopeful after he met Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, and set off yesterday for a tour of European capitals with a new peace plan. Is his optimism justified? It is probably the case that Milosevic is well aware that he has to cut a deal with Nato at some point, and that if he leaves it too long he could get badly caught out either by popular discontent as life in Yugoslavia becomes progressively more miserable, or by a Nato ground attack that could take Kosovo from him without anything in return. But he also knows that neither of these is very likely until well into June, especially in the light of the evident reluctance at the Nato summit to press ahead with the ground force option. The longer he waits, the more chance he has of doubters eating away at Alliance solidarity, and the better the eventual deal.

Viktor Chernomyrdin is as likely as anybody to broker a deal, but far too much emphasis is being put on Moscow's role at the moment. Russia is the closest Yugoslavia has to an ally. There should be no underestimating the depth of its hostility to Nato's actions (rather than enthusiasm for Serbia). But Russia brings few resources to the conflict. Milosevic may be hoping for more help with fuel supplies, but Moscow

has no real leverage over Belgrade. It provides no military help, while its attempts to orchestrate diplomatic support have ended in embarrassment, with votes in the Security Council on a motion to condemn Nato's use of force (12 to three against) and in the Committee on Human Rights, where only Russia opposed a motion condemning Serbia's actions in Kosovo, with 44 votes against and six abstentions. Nato is paying court to the Russians at the moment because it is alarmed at the sharp deterioration in relations and wishes to reassure them that their views matter. But they do not matter to the point that Nato will compromise on its basic aims, or will stop the bombing campaign to "give diplomacy a chance". The concessions that have been discussed essentially involve providing Milosevic with the face-saving device of a Security Council resolution that may not even mention Nato and will allow for the post-settlement protection force. But Milosevic has never been one to show deep

respect for security resolutions in the past (he has seen off more than 100 during this decade).

In addition, Nato forces will have to be at the core of a "UN presence". After all that they have been through the refugees are unlikely to venture home without anything less. Chernomyrdin's ideas to keep out Nato's most prominent members make no practical sense. Their forces are already in Macedonia ready to go in. Other forces, such as those of Greece, let alone Russia, would take time to assemble.

So whatever the wrapping, the basic package remains the same. Russia has no magic formula to make this acceptable to Milosevic. Once he allows a Nato force and the right of return to all refugees, he has lost. What then of partition? This is the standard compromise in ethnic disputes and would allow Russia to claim that neither Nato nor Belgrade was victorious. Serbs and Albanians will no longer live together, so give them both their own ethnically coherent territory. It is widely assumed that this is the deal that Milosevic intends to offer when the time is ripe. He has, however, shown no interest in it up to now and apparently dismissed the idea when it was proposed by the Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov. On reflection it is not hard to see why.

On the basis of the pre-war demographic balance, the Serbs would be entitled to less than 10 per cent of the territory, which clearly would be of little interest to Belgrade. The most logical division from Belgrade's point of view would take in the top half of the country, including the sites of historic importance to the Serbs, the lead and zinc mines of the Trepcja region, and the cities of Pristina, Mitrovica and Pec. Even then it would be extraordinarily risky for the Serbs to allow the



Kofi Annan is welcomed to the Kremlin by Boris Yeltsin AP

territory extending into the heart of the country from Albania to be out of their control. The KLA would never accept any settlement along these lines, and would soon be launching attacks against Serb-held territory. Milosevic's memory may well turn back to Croatia, which declared independence in the summer of 1991. The Yugoslav army joined with local Serbs in a ruthless offensive (which first introduced the idea of "ethnic cleansing"). In the end Croatia got its independence recognised internationally but had to accept partition, a "Republic of Serb Krajina", within its borders, its status apparently guaranteed by UN peacekeeping forces. Croatia rebuilt its forces and in the summer of 1995 retook Krajina, with this time some 200,000 Serbs forced to flee.

Milosevic's proposals will concentrate on the political front. He can promise dialogue with the Albanians and even autonomy close to Rambouillet lines, but he does so with some three-quarters of the population uprooted, and about half of these out of the country or dead. He

will insist that all refugees can come home, just so long, of course, as they can prove their Yugoslav nationality - somewhat difficult when passports, identity papers and car number plates have been seized and destroyed. His undertakings have been reported as envisaging a manageable post-war Albanian population of 600,000 (from a pre-war 1,800,000). At these levels unarmed monitors and Nato troops are redundant.

Milosevic never stops calculating. Looking at what is happening to his country he may recognise that in the end, with such powerful forces ranged against him, his terrible project for Kosovo may not succeed. Alternatively, he may be toppled from power. So long as he remains in place it is important to recognise that there is no easy compromise or clever formula that can extract either Belgrade or Nato from the confrontation. The issue remains constant: either the refugees go home in security, or they do not.

The writer is professor of war studies at King's College, London

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Why the physicists clubbed a chicken

A FEW years ago, I had a rather haunting experience. I was in a museum and saw, in a large column of formaldehyde, a splendid human brain, complete with the eyes, the spinal cord and all the body trailing down. It suddenly occurred to me that this was the complete human being, the complete system. We can use only a small part of it. Do we really understand it? No.

My ambition as a human being is threefold. I would like to be eclectic, holistic and omniscient. The third one is always a bit of a problem, but I would really like to understand everything. I would like to influence everything and I would like to be a positive force. It's becoming increasingly difficult, and the only way I can see of doing it is somehow to join forces with technology.

The amount of information now being created is phenomenal. It's like lying underneath a waterfall. The half-life of information in my industry is now about six months. It has become quite astonishing. If you were to read research reports on neurology alone for

24 hours a day non-stop for a year, after one year you'd be only two years out of date. This is becoming a stunning problem for the species.

I spend 15 days a year looking for something to read. For an hour every Sunday morning I go through the Sunday newspapers desperately trying to find something to read. One in four Sundays I find something. This is incredibly expensive. When I was 20 years old, 15 days a year was no big deal, but now I'm coming up to 53, 15 days a year is a big percentage of what I've got left.

I really would like to fix this problem. I would like the technology to bring the stuff to me, but I don't want technology that is cold and sterile. I want technology that is serendipity, something of the quality of someone coming into your office and saying, "Seen this?"

The library at my laboratory used to occupy a huge room full of shelves of books. It was ripped out nearly five years ago and replaced by what has turned out to be the world's second-biggest digital library, with 400 gigabytes. The biggest, at Los Alamos, has 2.1 terabytes, about five times



PODIUM
PETER COCHRANE
From a speech by the head of research at BT to the Royal Society for the Arts, Manufactures & Commerce

more than ours. The digital library has transformed the way we work. It's become an essential part of our lives. What we do now, we can't do on paper. The work output has gone up about tenfold in the space of 10 years.

Some very interesting things are starting to happen in the way engineers and scientists are now trying to look at what machinery is doing, as opposed to what evolved

systems are doing. By 2020, machines will be writing better software than human beings. It's starting to happen a little earlier than we thought.

My laptop has much more processing power than an ant, so why isn't it more powerful? For one thing, it suffers sensory deprivation on a scale that is hard to understand or comprehend, so no wonder it's dumb. We have a bunch of people around this planet creating little machines that have an interesting mix of brain-power and sensory capability.

One of the most remarkable I have seen is a tiny, six-legged robot with only three transistors - like three crude neurons - that can walk. As an engineer, I couldn't conceive of how you get something with just three transistors to walk. The clever thing is that it's got a lot of sensors, and it's the sensory feedback that creates the intelligence.

A virtual shark has been created that can swim inside a computer. No one programmed it to swim; it evolved the ability to move in its viscous world and, remarkably, it does so in a way that mimics the carbon life form that it is

emulating. We now have to think in terms of electronic agents swimming through a network of fibres, able to search and find and bring information to you.

Mathematics is no more than a visualisation tool. It takes you about 20 years to get good at it, so that when somebody throws a formula at you, you can visualise what is happening. For thousands of years philosophers sat round a table with a chicken in the middle of it trying to figure out how a chicken worked. They didn't make a lot of progress. The guys who did the smart thing were the physicists. They clubbed the chicken to death and took it to pieces. That way you get a first inkling of how it works. The guys that really worry me are the software engineers; they just want to specify a chicken.

We may not be able to create a butterfly yet. We may never be able to do everything that Mother Nature can, but there are things that we can do. Complementary technologies help us to win in a sea of activity that is becoming very difficult, very fast and very complex.

JAN 10 1999

The acceptable face of racism



DEBORAH ORR

Asylum-seekers are the people who will raise our taxes, hijack our homes and steal our jobs

A FEW weeks ago they were people. People whose right to live in freedom and without fear of intimidation and violence was a right we had gone to war to uphold.

A couple of days ago they were refugees, flushed out of their own country by a vengeful dictator into chaotic camps, the objects of our pity, the recipients of our charity.

Today they are asylum-seekers, scroungers, liabilities, another burden on Britain's welfare state. Today they are the people who will raise our taxes, hijack our homes and steal our jobs.

Their children, whose first language is not English, will attend our schools and hog the attention of teachers, who will then neglect the education of our own children. They will be a disruptive influence on our society more generally, too, for they do not know our ways.

They are already causing trouble, unhappy that some of their number are being accommodated in a hotel that is close to Leicester's 3,000-strong Serbian community. And this is the shape of things to come. These people will cling together and ghettoise themselves, making the long-term residents in the areas they colonise feel as if the country they have lived in all their lives is not their own any more.

They will tell us that they do not want to be here; that they have been driven out; that their homes have been burnt, their breadwinners killed and their possessions destroyed. That although they want to return to Kosovo, that is impossible for them, for in their own country they will live in fear, unable to escape the nightmares of the past which continue to torture them.

And while we will know this to be true, we will believe that there are other truths as well. That it is possible to be both a political exile and an economic migrant, and that the motivations of all asylum-seekers are larded with self-interest and opportunism. For while the victims of "ethnic cleansing" must be defended and refugees cared for, asylum-seekers are simply not to be trusted; asylum-seekers are a threat to our nation, a threat which, before the war came along, our Government was cracking down on.

Under the proposed Asylum and Immigration Bill, drawn up by the



Romanian asylum seekers at Joyce Green Hospital near Dartford, Kent

Andrew Buurman

Home Office before the Kosovo conflict began, asylum-seekers will no longer be able to come to this country and sign on for social security and other benefits while their applications are being processed. Instead, they will be provided with hostel accommodation and food vouchers. To care for their children, they will receive an additional 50 pence each day.

Lucky them. At least 15 Kosovar refugees seeking asylum in Britain over the last month have been placed in detention centres. One refugee, 18-year-old Tinaj Luan, who was detained at Heathrow airport while on his way to Canada, was sentenced to three months in a young offenders' institution for using a false passport and obtaining services by deception.

And while there is no doubt in my mind that the British Government is sincere in its assertion that it has become involved in this conflict for humanitarian reasons, it is not true that there is no direct benefit for Britain in containing Milosevic.

Over the last 15 months, between seven and eight thousand Kosovar refugees have made their way to Britain under their own steam. These people were not offered asylum. Instead they were

given temporary admission, hostel accommodation and food vouchers. It is a bitter irony that the decision to become involved in the defence of Kosovars has escalated this problem so spectacularly. For this humanitarian effort has highlighted the lack of humanity with which we treat the dispossessed.

And while one lesson we ought to learn from this is that in our future efforts to police the planet we must be ready to spend as much money and lavish as much thought on humanitarian efforts as we do on weaponry, there are other lessons to be learnt as well. For this is also an opportunity for us to examine our attitudes, and to think about the possibility that this Government-sanctioned resentment of asylum-seekers is nothing more than the latest nasty mutation of Britain's deep-rooted racism.

Further, we must ask whether our fear of "economic migrants" is simply the consequence of the colonialism-by-other-means that Western capitalist states such as ours call the "free market" or the "global economy". For while hatred of asylum-seekers is the new racism, adoration of the free market is the new colonialism. While it may seem that, in the wake of the

Lawrence Inquiry, Britain has undergone an orgy of soul-searching over the question of racism in our society, this is untrue. Instead, we went through the motions. We were not honest enough to examine the issue with the courage that was necessary.

The single news story that exemplifies our dishonesty was the one that broke in the middle of the post-Lawrence chest-beating, trumpeting Field-Marshal Montgomery as a racist for his views of Africa after the Second World War, as if this were unusual for a man such as him in the time that he lived. Of course it wasn't. Just 25 years ago, Britain sat around on nigger-brown couches watching *Love Thy Neighbour* and dreading the prospect of the darkies moving in like bulldozers and razing the streets.

Even now, the most benign among us curse the "Pakis" for charging us more for a pint of milk at midnight than the supermarket multinational does. And we don't even accept that calling Asian small shopkeepers "Pakis" is racist. That's what they call themselves now, we say, conveniently forgetting that this is the kind of "assimilation" that may stave off a stabbing, or at least defuse the word's power as a

wounding racial epithet when it's flung across the till.

Then, we feign perplexity that people can nail-bomb black or Asian communities, or set young black men on fire. We pretend to wonder where these kind of sick attitudes could possibly have been fostered when we know they have been fostered all about us. While we've reluctantly come to accept that there is such a thing as a black Briton, who can't be packed off home again, we still don't like it. Which is why our racism has found a new target, the asylum-seeker, who can be packed off home before his family become black Britons too.

All our navel-gazing about "institutionalised racism" generated nothing more useful than tummy-buttion lint. The proposed Asylum and Immigration Bill stands testament to the fact that institutionalised racism is alive and well and thriving in the heart of government. And it's a vote-catcher, as well. That's the real measure of how anti-racist this nation has become.

And while the fears that fuel this racism are indeed economic ones, that's only because the "free market" is a form of institutionalised and globalised racism, too. For the real reason why we don't want economic

migrants over here is because we need them over there - wherever "there" is - where they can be fully exploited in the name of global economics.

The reason why Western economies such as our own can stay healthy while seemingly encumbered with enormous trade deficits is because the bigger the deficit, the smaller the domestic wage bill. While the US has received plaudits for its intervention at the time of the Asian market collapse, the real reason why the predicted financial meltdown hasn't happened is because we need to continue importing from Asia every bit as much as they need to keep exporting to us.

While this Government's introduction of a national minimum wage is one of its finest innovations, the fact remains that the wage can be set so low, and the cost of living here kept so low, only because of our complicity in exploiting workers abroad. And that's why they have to be kept abroad. Exploitation without responsibility - it's the colonialist's dream, which means it's the racist's dream. That's what "economic migrants" are fleeing from. And that's why anyone who claims that the free market is benign is racist through and through.

RIGHT OF REPLY

CLAIRE FOX

The publisher of 'LM' magazine responds to a call by Ken Livingstone to outlaw Fascist organisations

"SHOULD WE let Fascists have free speech?" asks Ken Livingstone. Yes! Making speech free says nothing about the value of the words or ideas expressed.

What is at stake here is not freedom for crackpot racists but freedom for everyone in society. When Ken Livingstone asks whose civil liberties we protect by allowing free speech for groups such as Combat 18 and the British National Party, he implies it is those of the speakers. However, it is about protecting the rights of listeners.

As long as we are all free to judge for ourselves the importance of what's being said, then words should never be banned. It should be the right of the electorate to hear all the candidates and make up their own minds as to the validity of their case. I don't want Livingstone deciding whose opinions I get to hear: if I don't like these ideas I can challenge or rebut them, or treat them with indifference if they deserve it. I want to be the judge of that, not some holler-than-thou politician.

But something more dangerous lurks beneath this call for bans: a barely disguised contempt for people. Mr Livingstone appears to assume that words and their consequences are the same thing. The next BNP political broadcast, he alleges, will lead to "thugs" going "out on the streets" to "give a good kicking to the little black man they find". Does he think that the BNP's words are all it will take to turn us all into racist thugs?

In fact, words have consequences only if we choose to give them consequences. It is not the words themselves - whether in a broadcast or a Combat 18 magazine - that cause things to happen.

Unlike Ken, I believe that any free human being, with a mind of his own, has the ability to judge between right and wrong. The only thing that responds mindlessly to the command "kill" is an attack dog. People are not animals; and it is precisely a belief in free speech which indicates that society believes humans are capable of more than the instinctive reactions of beasts.

The paradox of the patriarch

WE ALL know what a Victorian father was like. But I had one. Dictatorial and distant, he was a bit of an anachronism in a north-London suburb in the Sixties. I had to call him "Papa" (a word that still makes me go cold with dread) and when I married against his will 11 years ago, he cut me off without a penny. I haven't seen him since, and all efforts to get in touch with him have been rebuffed.

So I have often been surprised, when reading 19th-century sources, to discover just how loving and indulgent Victorian papas could be. The powerful stereotype is clearly as erroneous as it is persistent. "For most of the 19th century," John Tosh declares in the introduction to this ambitious and thought-provoking book, "home was widely held to be a man's place, not only in the sense of being his possession or fiefdom, but also as the place where his deepest needs were met." In an age that congratulated itself on economic and social advances, "the men credited with these achievements were expected to be dutiful husbands and attentive fathers".

The early Victorians were so keen



FRIDAY BOOK

A MAN'S PLACE: MASCULINITY AND THE MIDDLE-CLASS HOME IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

BY JOHN TOSH, YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £19.99

on home-making. Tosh argues, that they destroyed the thing they loved. Making women, as wives and mothers, so pivotal in the home, led to a steady decline in the importance of men. Their role was to go out to earn the money to pay for everything. While boys were raised to be providers, girls were taught only domestic skills. Consequently, their sexuality and intellect were suppressed to the point of crippling ignorance.

Gradually, the joys of bourgeois home life turned into the "tyranny of five o'clock tea" as stupid women with no conversation or interest in sex "played mother" over bone-china teapots. By the end of Victoria's reign, there were increasing numbers of middle-class men who either chose not to marry, or delayed marriage, while

"homosexual practice was almost certainly on the increase".

Professor Tosh's thesis is compelling, mainly because the book is such a gloriously voyeuristic read. His principal source is the intimate correspondence of seven middle-class men, unlucky enough to have had their private letters deposited in public libraries. It is hard to imagine what Joshua Pritchard, a Manchester excise-man, Edward Herford, a Manchester attorney, Cornelius Stovin, a Lincolnshire farmer, Isaac Holden, a Bradford mill-owner, John Heaton, a Leeds doctor, Daniel Meinertzhagen, a London banker, and Edward Benson, priest and teacher, would say if they knew the use to which their letters have been put. Nor am I convinced that seven case studies, albeit with snippets extracted from a medley of literature, constitutes a valid study. It is interesting, though.

"Edward [Benson] was 30 when he married in 1859, soon after taking up his appointment as headmaster of the newly founded Wellington College. Mary was 18... As a man troubled by a strong libido, he saw her innocence as his best means of resisting temptation of thought or deed... The wedding night was a disaster." Only later, "after more than 10 years of marriage did Mary begin to discover her sensual side... leading eventually to a full lesbian relationship."

Later, we are told that Benson's "legendary capacity for work" (the rose to become Archbishop of Canterbury) was in part a displacement for his frustrated libido. It is a curious



WP Frith's 'Many Happy Returns of the Day' (1845) is misinterpreted

sensation, looking at the photographs of the demure Mary and her dignified husband in the light of this information - one not unlike reading intimate revelations in *Hello!* magazine.

Tosh disarmingly admits that the evidence is contradictory. Typical of this method is his use of WP Frith's famous painting *Many Happy Returns of the Day* in the chapter on fathering. "The father," he observes, "is the only one at table not engrossed in the family celebration, suggesting a semi-detached presence. The distant father exemplifies the ambivalence with which so many men viewed their paternal role."

Yet Tosh's quick glance at the picture, followed by his swift, sweeping conclusion, does not stand up to even the most casual inspection. The father is only leaning back from the jollifications at table in order to listen politely to the old grandfather pontificating on something in the newspaper. He is in fact sitting between two of his

sons as they lark around with the sherry decanter, having indulgently accepted a glass and sent a daughter over to the old man with another. The only one not joining in the celebration is, in fact, the garlanded birthday child, who looks overwhelmed. This painting is used on the cover, where the old man who is distracting the father is significantly cut away by being wrapped around the edge of the book. Meanwhile, the figure of the "semi-detached" father is extracted and blown up on the back, thus aptly enacting the kind of cut-and-paste distortion Tosh delights in.

Clearly, Tosh's primary intention is to be provocative, and in this he succeeds. *A Man's Place* is fun to read, but might have been more worthwhile had Tosh confined himself to presenting seven case studies whose very contradictions would have been allowed to speak for themselves.

CHARLOTTE CORY

FRIDAY POEM

ICE CREAM
BY NICK DRAKE

The railways feed their tracks into King's Cross,
Fluorescent lemons and foil in the all-night stores,

one to cut, the other to fashion
the packets, exchanged by mouth:

that deep kiss, a moment of business;
her parting face like ice-cream in winter.

From Nick Drake's first collection,
'The Man in the White Suit' (Bloodaxe, £6.95)

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Sir William McCrea

WILLIAM MCCREA, doyen of British astronomy, was held in respect and affection by all generations.

He was born in Dublin, the eldest child of a schoolmaster. His parents were strict members of the Plymouth Brethren, but by the age of 18 he had become a confirmed Anglican, a faith he retained all his life. By 1907 the family had moved to Chesterfield, Derbyshire, where Bill attended first the Central (elementary) School and then the Grammar School, from which he won an entrance scholarship in Mathematics to Trinity College, Cambridge.

He read for the Mathematics Tripos, becoming a Wrangler in 1926. He specialised in those branches of mathematical physics which were stimulating exciting research at Cambridge, and after graduating he began research as one of the many pupils of R.H. Fowler (to whom he paid warm tribute on his 1989 centenary).

Although initially he worked on basic problems in quantum physics and relativity, and also on related problems in pure mathematics, McCrea's interest gradually focused on the application of theoretical physics to the astronomical universe, ranging from the constitution of stellar atmospheres, through the formation of planets and stars, to cosmology, the study of the universe as a whole. Recognition came early with a Cambridge University Rayleigh Prize, a Trinity College Rouse Ball Senior Studentship, a Sheepshanks Exhibition and an Isaac Newton Studentship.

After spending the year 1928/29 as visitor at Göttingen University in Germany, McCrea began his rapid rise up the regular academic ladder as Lecturer in the Edinburgh Department of Mathematics, headed by Edmund Whittaker, followed by four years as Reader at Imperial College, London. In 1936 he moved to Queen's University, Belfast, as Professor of Mathematics.

In 1943 he was given leave from Belfast while doing Operational Research in the Admiralty in the team led by Patrick M.S. Blackett. After VE day in 1945, with the rank of Temporary Captain in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, he had the task of interviewing German naval officers in Schleswig-Holstein. He in fact did not return to Belfast, as in 1944 he had been appointed Professor at Royal Holloway College, London, taking up the appointment at the end of the war.



With the enthusiastic support of the Astronomer Royal, McCrea and Roger Tayler jointly put Sussex on the world astronomy map

McCrea remained at Holloway until 1968, when he took up his last appointment as SRC-supported (Science Research Council) Research Professor of Theoretical Astronomy at the recently established Sussex University. Shortly after the war, he had urged the setting-up of a national institute of theoretical astronomy. The subsequent, rather tortuous, negotiations led to the establishment of the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy in Cambridge (now united with the Cambridge Observatories) to form the Institute of Astronomy, and a smaller Astronomy Centre in Sussex, with McCrea as the first research professor and the late Roger Tayler as the first UGC-funded (University Grants Committee) professor. With the enthusiastic support of the Astronomer Royal, Sir Richard Woolley, and the other senior staff at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, McCrea and Tayler

jointly put Sussex on the world astronomy map.

McCrea was a versatile astrophysicist. Many of his papers have had a permanent effect on the way subsequent workers have formulated the various problems under discussion. He was an early advocate of the now-accepted view that stars should have a high hydrogen content. He pioneered study of the formation in dusty interstellar clouds of the hydrogen molecule, a crucial cooling agent, and of other molecules, and gave an elegant treatment of the way such clouds, when externally compressed, can reach densities high enough for gravitational collapse to ensue, leading possibly to break-up into stars.

His other contributions to cosmological gas dynamics included a proposal for turbulent support of the solar chromosphere, and detailed studies of the gravitational accretion of interstellar gas by already-formed stars; though, like many of his generation, he was slow to appreciate the importance of electromagnetic processes in astronomy.

Concerning relativity theory, he vigorously rebutted misunderstandings of the so-called "twin paradox" that persisted in reappearing in the literature. He also pointed out that the cosmological constant that appears in Einstein's modified version of general relativity can be interpreted as the energy density of the vacuum.

Together with Edward A. Milne he showed that the various cosmological models emerging from Einstein's theory have simply understood Newtonian analogues. When evolutionary cosmology appeared to face observational difficulties, he showed a commendable flexibility of mind (a quality not always visible in members of the scientific establishment) in his taking seriously the alternative steady-state theory, proposed by Hermann Bondi, Thomas Gold and Fred Hoyle, and in fact showed how the model could be treated within the mathematical framework of general relativity; but he later accepted that, at least in its original form, the theory could no longer hold up against the accumulating evidence from optical and radio observations. In his later years, he expressed scepticism about the feasibility of the whole cosmological enterprise.

In addition to his many papers and reviews, McCrea wrote the

texts *Relativity Physics* (1935) and *Analytical Geometry of Three Dimensions* (1942), the less technical *Physics of the Sun and Stars* (1950), and, together with Tayler, the second volume of the *History of the Royal Astronomical Society*, covering 1920-1980 (1987). As with Tayler, his services to astronomy went far beyond his technical contributions. He was successively Council member, Secretary, President, Foreign Correspondent and Treasurer of the RAS, and for some years editor of *The Observatory* and of the *RAS Monthly Notices*. He served on the councils of the Royal Society, of the London Mathematical Society, and of the Royal Institute of Philosophy.

McCrea received many invitations to visit, from all over the world. He was a Eyring Fellow at Caius College, Cambridge, and visiting professor or lecturer at Berkeley, the University of British Columbia at Vancouver, Louvain, Cairo, Istanbul and Otago in New Zealand, among others. Further recognition came with honorary degrees from the National University of Ireland, Queen's University at Belfast, and the Universities of Dublin and Sussex; and he was Member of the Académie Leopoldine, and Foreign Member of the Turin Academy of Sciences. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1952.

Bill McCrea was a kindly, slightly shy man, but with hidden reserves of strength, and remained intellectually alive well into his sixties. His somewhat formal manner was rather misleading; he was in fact a gregarious figure, especially committed to the RAS and RS dining clubs.

LEON MESTEL

William Hunter McCrea, mathematician and astrophysicist; born Dublin 13 December 1904; Lecturer in Mathematics, Edinburgh University 1930-32; Reader in Mathematics, London University, and Assistant Professor, Imperial College of Science 1932-36; Professor of Mathematics, Queen's University, Belfast 1936-44; Professor of Mathematics, Royal Holloway College, London University 1944-68; FRS 1952; President, Royal Astronomical Society 1961-63; Research Professor of Theoretical Astronomy, Sussex University 1966-72 (Emeritus); K3 1985; married 1933 Marion Webster (died 1995; one son, two daughters); died Lewes, East Sussex 25 April 1999.



Perkins, as a skeleton, with Bert Wheeler, left, and Robert Woolsey, in *The Nitwits*, 1935

Gil Perkins

GIL PERKINS was the stuntman's stuntman. Other people, some even before him, had perpetrated fantastic physical exploits, others had achieved the harder task of simulating them. Now, when digital imaging threatens to make the whole business obsolete, it is worth commemorating one man whose aim was to take the risk out of danger, to make it a science, not a chance game.

Perkins was born in Queensland in 1907, and although most of his long life was spent in California, he never caught the accent; he passed for English, but his intonation, rather than accent, remained Australian. He went from school to Malvern Technical School, where his father hoped he would become an engineer. But he had always wanted to act, starting with children's parts in pantomime.

At the age of 18, he signed on as a deck-hand on a Norwegian freighter and spent four months wandering round the Pacific. In 1927 he arrived in California with a friend who started a garage business, but he always had his eye on the movies. It was not easy to get in, even then, as he remembered:

I was 20 and well set-up. I'd been a champion athlete in Australia and a trackman. I was also a very determined young man. I would go around to studios and talk to casting directors. If I couldn't get any satisfaction from them, I'd go around to the back of Paramount and jump over the barbed wire.

In 1928 he got his first part, in *The Divine Lady*, directed by Frank Lloyd, and the following year he was Sergeant Cox in *Journey's End*. But it was also in 1929 that his real career took off, when he doubled for Rod La Rocque in *The Delightful Rogue* for RKO. He made a good match for Bill Boyd in all the Hopalong Cassidy films, and at various times did duty for Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Randolph Scott, Kirk Douglas, Red Skelton often ("With a red hairpiece on, I looked quite a bit like Red - in his hairpiece"), Danny Kaye and Gene Hackman. He was in *King Kong* (1933), *Captains Courageous* (1937) and, with Errol Flynn, in the famous *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938): "No pies in that one," he recalled, custard pies being a staple of the stuntman's lot. He was also in *Mrs Miniver* (1942), *Bonnie*

and *Clyde* (1967) and *Walking Tall* (1973), but he was rarely out of a job until well on into his seventies.

In the early days there was no education for being a stuntman. It all had to be done by trial and error - error that could be fatal if you were not lucky, and, more than lucky, careful. Perkins believed in care: he had learned to ride as a child, and

I learned how to fall and tumble at school on the football field. We used to dive out of the willow trees, 20, 30, 40 feet and even higher, into the river. I learned how to control my body as a diver.

This sense of the limits to which the body could be stretched was his guide in what he did and, later, asked others to do: "If you're not 99.99 per cent sure you can do it successfully without hurting yourself, don't do it."

Two standard stunt nightmares were motorcycles and aeroplanes. Of the first, he felt: "you have too much power floating between your legs to control". He very nearly lost his life this way in one of his earliest films. He had a sequence involving a lighting descent down a dirt trail, skidding through the hairpin bends. Careful as always, he did it three times before the scene was shot, but when it was, he hit a soft patch on the edge of a bend and fell 30 feet to the bend below with the bike on top of him.

Turned out the director had seen me practising and thought it looked too easy, so he had the screen-hands soften up the earth. He could have killed me - I could have killed him.

As to planes, there was too much that was unpredictable. I remember his describing how you jumped from one plane to another (was he the first to do that stunt of stunts?); it involved a fine wire joining the two, invisible to the camera, but, "This type of thing is too damn risky." In point of fact, his nearest disasters all came in train sequences, jumping from car to car.

Fights were another matter. We don't do them on the scale we used to. Two of the greatest fights I ever saw, and I was in both of them, were in *Dodge City* in 1939 and *Seven Sinners* a year or two later at Universal. On both occasions, we tore the place apart. And we did a pretty good job in *The Great Race* at Warner's with Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. We completely destroyed a saloon. Only the roof remained, with a post to hold it up.

The structures we destroyed were

made of real wood except, where you had contact, it was balsa wood. And the glass was plastic. It used to be made of candy, but candy under the lights would just melt.

Perkins was an expert swordsman, too, early learning that all moves had to be exaggerated: "If you do what fencers actually do, the viewer would never see anything."

From *Whistling in the Dark* (1941), his first film with Red Skelton, he worked as a stunt coordinator. Planning the action appeared to his professionalism, and in later life he sometimes tackled it on a grand scale, rehearsing and laying out a beach landing in a war movie with 500 marines and 500 Japanese, almost all of whom got killed - "I showed them what I wanted, like how to fall off cliffs with machine guns." He admired directors who worked the same way, like Hitchcock and Stevens, who would "prepare a picture, shoot it, and then sit in on the cutting". He was largely responsible for setting up in 1961 the Stuntmen's Association of Motion Pictures, as a "fraternal association within the industry", not as a trade union, but as a way for the older and experienced to pass their knowledge on, so that the younger members could be protected from unnecessary risks.

All this and more would come out over Sunday lunches at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club. He thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing about his long life, which he did without a trace of boasting or self-aggrandisement. He thought the technicalities of his job were fascinating and, the way he told them, they were. He was, in this as everything else, quite unselfconscious. "At my age," and he was quite old then, "when somebody asks my daughter, 'What does your father do?' she has to say, 'He falls on his head, of course.' Doesn't sound very dignified." But he was, naturally, and it made him a great man as well as a great stuntman.

NICOLAS BARKER

Gilbert Vincent Perkins, stuntman; born Melbourne, Victoria, 24 August 1907; married 1939 Lucille Benzecry (died 1992; one daughter); died Woodland Hills, California 28 March 1999.

Peregrine Fellowes

PEREGRINE FELLOWES'S first job, after graduating from University College London as a civil engineer, was supervising bridge construction in the Sudan. Thus began a long relationship with Africa.

In the Second World War, from 1939 to 1942, he was involved in the Ethiopian campaign, including a secret mission to re-instate the Emperor Haile Selassie. He was responsible for the mobile Propaganda Unit, a printing press carried by two camels. Persuasive leaflets to Italians were pushed over barbed wire with bayonets. In 1943, he had his first bout of TB and spent a year in a clinic in Africa. His intrepid wife, Owen, who had spent some of the war in South America, arrived to rescue him.

After the war, Fellowes was recruited as a diplomat and became a friend and colleague of Kim Philby. He served in the Foreign Office News Department under the legendary Sir William Ridsdale. He gained a reputation for being extremely well-informed and unusually outspoken for a diplomat. In 1948 he was posted to Cairo with Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean. Having worked unwittingly with all three spies, and finding Burgess hilariously funny, he was then horrified by their treachery. He always assumed

that he must have been investigated as a possible "fourth man".

Another bout of TB finished his career in the Foreign Office and in the mid-1950s he joined Shell. In 1960 he returned to Africa as head of Shell in Nigeria. In that era of Nigerian independence, he and his wife made many friends and were dismayed by the subsequent civil war. In the 1960s, African friends would visit their house in East Sussex, and be baffled by such apparitions as the Gun Room.

Back in London, Fellowes was appointed Controller of Government and Trade Relations for Shell International. The knowledge he acquired on his travels for Shell in the Middle East he used later in his work for peace. He held two passports, Arab and Israeli.

He was one of the first to grasp the necessity of a global energy policy, as he demonstrated in his pamphlet "The Energy Equation", written for the Conservative Political Centre during the energy crisis of 1973 after the oil-producing Arab countries had upped their oil prices.

His father had been killed in the First World War when Peregrine was three. The subsequent eight years with his widowed mother gave him a lasting respect for women. In 1923 his mother remarried, to Arthur



Fellowes: 'fourth man'?

Byrne, brother of a later Abbot of Ampleforth.

The young Peregrine converted to Catholicism and was educated at Ampleforth. When he married Owen Stuart-Jones in 1935, she took Catholic instruction. An independent-minded woman, Owen had difficulty with the idea of Hell. A compromise was reached. If she could agree to Hell, said the Catholic bishop, she did not need to believe that there was anyone in it.

After leaving Shell Fellowes worked for the Ford Foundation, Chatham House, the Council of Churches and the Centre for Policy Studies. He also produced *The New Middle East*, a magazine designed to promote understanding between Arabs and Israelis. When Owen died in 1980 of cancer, he was unable to look after himself. Luckily in 1982 he married Lady Maureen Dormer. Although domestically unskilled, she shared his love of music and social life - "they would cross England for a sandwich" said his stepdaughter.

Two nights before he died, Peregrine Fellowes went to Evening Mass in Chipping Campden, his marital home. He appeared to sleep throughout, but afterwards buttoned the priest, to protest at the sloppy translation of the Gospel. He will be much missed bowling through the town in his electric chair.

ELISA SEGRAVE

Peregrine Edward Launcelot Fellowes, diplomat and businessman; born Coligny, Canada 8 July 1912; married 1935 Owen Stuart-Jones (died 1980; four sons); 1982 Lady Maureen Dormer (née Noel; two stepdaughters); died Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire 15 February 1999.

Hubert W. David

HUBERT W. DAVID was amongst the youngest composers to write a million-selling song, for he was barely 20 when "Felix Knept on Walking" found its place on the hit parade of the day.

It was inevitable that "Micky" David would enter the music business, for he had total encouragement from his father, Wornton David, a co-founder in 1914 of the Performing Right Society and famous for his music-hall songs "Hello, Hello, Who's Your Lady Friend?" and "Hold Your Hand Out Naughty Boy".

David began his long career in writing and publishing at the age of 16, joining the Lawrence Wright Mu-

sic Company and selling sheet music from song shops on the Blackpool Pleasure Beach. He soon turned his hand to songwriting, and achieved early modest success with "Robinson Crusoe Blues", "In the Eyes of the World" and "Oh Star of Eve".

He eventually returned to London, where he and his father began their own publishing company, specialising in novelty songs. A chance meeting with a director of J. Lyons & Co led to a contract to promote the personal waitress service at Lyons Corner Houses. Thus was born the name "Nippy" for the waitresses and "The Nippy Song" to go with them.

David's next venture was as music adviser to the Twickenham Film Studios, which at the time were churning out second feature "B" movies as fast as they could make them. He served a successful two years there before the lure of Tin Pan Alley saw him back in London, working initially for the Peter Maurice Music Company and then for Chappell's. A few years later he opened his own orchestral service supplying music scores and band parts for the many orchestras under the control of the J. Lyons Organisation.

During the Second World War, blitzed out of his London office, he ran his business from home whilst working alternate days and nights with the Civil Defence in Westminster as a rescue-truck driver before joining the Royal Army Service Corps. Upon demob, by now without his orchestral business, it was back to Tin Pan Alley, this time with the Keith Prowse Music Company.

He began writing songs again. "A Rose in a Garden of Weeds", recorded by Donald Peers, was his next hit, closely followed by "The Ring Your Mother Wore", recorded by Matt Monro. He also wrote as a freelance journalist for Odhams Press, contributing three weekly articles, for

Melody Maker, *Woman* and the *Sunday People*. This led to the request for a column in the Mecca Organisation house magazine *Dance News*, which later became a commercial magazine with David as sub-editor.

Around the same time BBC television, with the assistance of Eric Morley of Mecca, began a programme called *Come Dancing*. Naturally the show required a signature tune and Hubert W. David was asked to provide one. Joe Loss recorded it and another success was born.

In 1989 "Micky" David was awarded the Gold Badge of the British Academy of Composers & Song-

writers for his loyal services to British Popular Music. He was well known in his later years for his continuous work for the Performing Right Society Members' Fund. For over 35 years he served as Councilor, Chairman, Finance Chairman and Trustee. He was still in harness as an Honorary Consultant at the end.

ELIZABETH MOORE
AND BRIAN WILLEY

Hubert Wornton David, composer; born Worley, West Yorkshire 19 May 1904; married 1938 Di Rees (died 1993); died Esher, Surrey 22 April 1999.



David: 'The Nippy Song'

DAVID 1950

Howard Goodman

HOWARD GOODMAN'S work as Chief Architect, 1971-78, and later Director of Health Building, of the Department of Health, brought real benefit to the lives of millions of patients treated in NHS hospitals. The path of his career was liberally posted with milestone events in the development of health building in Britain.

His career began in 1944 when, at the age of 16, he was articled to a small architectural practice in the West of England. Joining the NHS in Bristol in 1947, in its very early days and before any notion existed of large-scale national hospital-building programmes, Goodman worked throughout the region on a range of relatively small jobs aimed at improving or patching up the disparate NHS estate.

This grounding stood him in good stead in the 1950s when he took his talents to a succession of leading private practices (Watkins, Gray, 1954; Howard and Fairbairn, 1956, and Powell and Moyn, 1958). These settings brought the opportunity of working on large hospital projects, such as Wythenshawe and Wexham Park.

In 1960 Goodman joined the newly formed Hospital Design Unit at the then Ministry of Health, under the Chief Architect William Tatton Brown. The unit was a key resource as central government and the NHS sought to give reality to Enoch Powell's vision of a modern hospital estate, set out in *The Hospital Plan* (1961). Work on a number of projects and studies was carried out, but in 1962 Goodman was asked to lead the team which was to give a new direction to hospital building in the UK, and which had great influence world-wide. The idea was radical and involved the pursuit of new forms of flexibility in hospital design, leading to buildings which were low-rise yet compact, with engineering services contained within their own "floors between floors". Delivery of the idea followed and a 770-bed hospital was built on a heavily restricted site at Greenwich.

The demands of a national hospital-building programme were many. Economy of planning effort and economy of running costs were but two of these, which led Goodman and his colleagues to build on the experience of Greenwich and embark on ambitious and highly imaginative programmes of standardised planning and design. The Best-Buy hospitals ("Two for the price of one") were followed by the innovative, but in the final analysis too expensive, Harrold programme. A further hard press on the economy pedal from the Treasury brought the response of Nucleus hospitals, which were widely adopted in a variety of forms.



He claimed to be the only Grade 3 civil servant to have received personal 'bollockings' from three separate Permanent Secretaries

Goodman's work at the Health Department was not restricted to the high profile of the acute hospital. He led work developing new building forms for the delivery of what were often "Cinderella" services, such as those for the mentally ill, where he maintained the strongest of personal commitments. Throughout his central government career he gave inspirational leadership, which was reflected in extraordinary levels of loyalty from his staff.

His appointment to the senior post of Chief Architect in 1971 brought both recognition and responsibility. It also showed the contrasts which existed in Goodman - the senior civil servant, but someone who was often impatient with the requirements of the systems and controls of central government. He could not be always delicate in his responses to perceived obstacles and so he inevitably crossed swords with his seniors in the Department of Health. But he took any reproaches in good part and used every opportunity of making clear his proud claim to being the only Grade 3 civil servant to have received personal and formal "bollockings" (his own words) from three separate Permanent Secretaries.



Greenwich District Hospital, designed by Goodman and his team, 1962

The efforts of the department to bring Goodman and his lieutenants under full control were usually returned with interest added. One newly promoted civil servant sent from the Elephant to Goodman's base in Euston Tower with this brief, reading the correspondence page of the *Architects' Journal* one day, saw with considerable dismay a letter from Goodman asking why the Secretary of State was forever "slapping off" his own department's architects. It was only further study of the letter that told him that Goodman had taken the precaution of having his son sign the letter, and that an unwelcome confrontation could therefore be avoided.

Retirement from the department in 1988 led to no let-up in Goodman's activities - they just got wider. He became a partner in MPA Health Strategy and Planning, a Labour Councillor in Reigate, and a much-valued member of East Surrey Community Health Council. His voluntary work in support of mental health groups continued throughout all this.

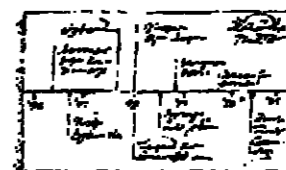
Until his final illness became apparent a year ago, his appetite for work remained unabated and his breadth of

vision remained. Still the man of contrast could be seen. Who else could spend the morning developing and promoting a plan for a new countryside pattern of acute hospitals, then take the Tube to Newham in the afternoon and work on plans for a one-stop shop for Community Health and Social Services?

Howard Goodman had clear principles and stayed true to them. He had a strong preference for incorporating good company into his pattern of work and his many friends will miss him.

JOHN GARLICK

Robert Howard Goodman, architect, born 29 March 1928; Assistant Architect, South West Regional Hospital Board 1949-54; architect in private practice 1954-60; Main Grade Architect, Ministry of Health (later Department of Health) 1960-61; Senior Grade Architect 1961-63; Principal Architect 1963-66; Assistant Chief Architect 1966-71; Chief Architect 1971-78; Director of Development 1978-85; Partner, MPA Health Planners 1988-99; twice married (two sons); died Caterham, Surrey 22 April 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES ROY SHERWOOD

Oliver Cromwell, king without a crown

SUNDAY 25 April 1999 marked the 400th anniversary of the birth of arguably one of the most misunderstood figures in British history, Oliver Cromwell.

Reinforced no doubt by Victorian dramatic representations of events from his life, the popular stereotypical image of Cromwell as Lord Protector from 1653 to 1658 is that of the po-faced military dictator clattering austere about the ex-royal palaces in dull apparel, riding boots, replete with spurs, and even the odd piece of armour. This in spite of the fact that as Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell not only functioned as a king but also dressed, acted and lived very much in the style of a king, even though he was head of state of what was nominally a republic.

Cromwell and the Cromwellian regime knew that the power, wealth and influence of a nation were, at that time, projected by the clothes a ruler wore, the magnificence of his court, and the symbolism of ceremonial.

Shortly after his investiture as Lord Protector in December 1653 Cromwell was entertained by the City of London, as had been the custom following a monarch's coronation. For this public symbolic acceptance of his regime the Protector rode through the streets of the capital resplendently attired in a rich riding coat embroidered with gold lace on a horse equally as re-

splendently adorned with rich trappings.

Likewise, Cromwell opened Parliament with all the ritual and pageantry of a king, travelling to the ceremony in a magnificent state coach accompanied by liveried footmen and yeomen of the guard. This regal splendour was mirrored in his court. It was, according to the Venetian ambassador, the most awe-inspiring and prestigious court in the world, where pomp had reached such a pitch that the ambassador expressed anxiety at the cost of maintaining a presence there.

Court life very much resembled life at previous royal courts. This is no more exemplified than by the marriages of Cromwell's two youngest daughters, Mary and Frances. Both married into the nobility and the celebrations lasted several days. There was even a revival, in shadowy form, of the royal court masque in the entertainment written for Mary Cromwell's wedding by the poet Andrew Marvell. At Frances's wedding the father of the bride wore a shirt of fine linen trimmed with a lace neckband and cuffs, a costly doublet and breeches "of the Spanish fashion" made of uncut grey velvet, a pair of silk stockings with shoestrings and gold-laced garters to match.

The settings for Cromwell's jewel of a court were the ex-royal palaces of White-

hall and Hampton Court. Both were re-equipped and refurbished to provide an environment which corresponded to the Protector's exalted status.

Royal ritual, pomp and ceremony reached a high point at Cromwell's second investiture in June 1657. Having refused Parliament's offer of the crown he nevertheless agreed to occupy the office of king but with his existing title of Lord Protector. His second investiture was therefore a king-making ceremony - a coronation without the crown. Vested with royal robes and girded with a kingly sword, he was enthroned in the Coronation Chair, holding a solid gold sceptre as a symbol of his sovereign power. Little wonder some of his contemporaries now referred to Cromwell as "protector royal". Cromwell's protectorship royal did not, however, constitute a return to traditional monarchical rule for his was a new model monarchy with the Protector owing his title to Parliament.

There have been many misconceptions of Cromwell as Lord Protector. His contemporaries, however, would have well understood the regal Oliver, the protector royal, so far removed from the later door stereotypical image of popular myth.

Roy Sherwood is the author of *Oliver Cromwell: king in all but name 1653-1658* (Sutton, £18.99).

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden, 55; Prince of the Netherlands, 90; Dr Gerald Aylmer, historian, 73; Mrs Janet Buchanan, former MEP, 73; Mrs Barbara Calvert QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 73; Mr Frederick Chibumba, President of Zambia, 58; Miss Jill Clayburgh, actress, 55; Miss Clare Curtis/Tomas, MP, 41; Sir Robin David, former circuit judge, 77; Mr Dickie Davies, sports commentator, 66; Lord Diamond, former leader of the SDP in the House of Lords, 92; The Rev Paul Fiddes, Principal, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 52; Mr Leslie Grantham, actor, 53; Mr William Henry, former chairman, Coats Patent, 84; Mr Alfred Lomas, MEP, 71; Lord McIntosh of Haringey, 66; Mr Keith Povey, HM Inspector of Constabulary, 56; Lord Sanderson of Bowden, former Chairman, Scottish Conservative Party, 66; Professor Graham Upton, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Casimir III, King of Poland, 1310; Jacques-Louis

David, painter, 1748; Sir John Lubbock, first Baron Avebury, banker, writer and entomologist, 1834; Joachim von Ribbentrop, politician, 1893. Deaths: Eustache Le Sueur, painter, 1655; Edouard Manet, Impressionist painter, 1883; Alfred Edward Hausman, poet and scholar, 1936; Beatrice (Potter) Webb, writer, 1943; Adolf Hitler, dictator, committed suicide 1945; Eva Braun, mistress of Adolf Hitler, committed suicide 1945; George Balanchine, choreographer, 1983; Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield), rhythm and blues singer, 1983. On this day: under an Edict issued by Galerius Valerius Maximianus, Christians were legally recognised by the Roman Empire, 311; General George Washington was inaugurated as first US President, 1789; Louisiana became the eighth of the United States, 1812; the World Fair opened in St Louis, Missouri, 1904; the New World's Fair opened, 1939; the first London performance of the musical *My Fair Lady* was staged, 1958; the Brighton Belle train made its last journey, 1972; four of President Richard Nixon's top aides resigned over Watergate charges, 1973; the South Vietnamese government surrendered unconditionally to the Vietcong, 1975. Today is the

Feast Day of St Eutropius of Saintes, St Porannan, St Gualfardus or Wulfard, Saints Marianus, James and Others, St Maximus of Ephesus and St Pius V, pope.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Mari Griffiths, "Reading (iv): Catena. Saint Jerome in his Study", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Moira Thunder, "Continental Portrait Miniature", 3pm. Tate Gallery: Peter Bower, "The Manufacture, Selection and Use of Turner's Papers: 1829-1851", 1pm. British Museum: Oliver Roberts, "Greek Red-figure Vase Painting in South Italy", 11.30am. Anglia Polytechnic University, Centre for Regional Studies, Cambridge: John Sutton, "Ironies in the Making: the early career of Oliver Cromwell", 8.30pm.

DINNERS

Defence and Security Forum Lady Olga Maitland, President of Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner yesterday evening at the Garrick Club, London WC2. Mr Nick Prest,

chairman, Alvis plc, was the guest speaker. Col Philip Howes, DSP Chairman, also spoke.

EDNA LUMB ARTISTIC TRUST

The annual Edna Lumb Travel Prize for art students, sponsored by the Edna Lumb Artistic Trust, was presented yesterday at Leeds Metropolitan University. Awards were made to Mr Robert Vale and jointly to Miss Priscilla Hamsberry and Miss Katie Macdonald.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.07pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Federation of London Youth Clubs, visits the Bernard Sunley Outdoor Educational and Activity Centre, Hindleap Warren, East Sussex. The Duke of York, Honorary Air Commodore, attends a Dinner Night at RAF Lossiemouth, Grampian.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Brides, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam, telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2011; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER: Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

Landowner liable for nuisance of licensee

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

30 APRIL 1999

Lippiatt and another v South Gloucestershire Council (as successor authority to Avon County Council) Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Christopher Staughton) 31 March 1999

THERE WAS no rule of law which prevented the owner occupier of land from being held liable for the tort of nuisance by reason of the activities of his licensee which took place off his land.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appellants' appeal against the decision that their claim in nuisance against the defendant council should be struck out as disclosing no reasonable cause of action.

From about October 1991 travellers occupied a strip of land owned by the defendant council, which had originally been acquired by the Ministry of Transport for the purpose of road-widening which had never been carried out. In June 1994 the council successfully applied for the travellers to be evicted.

The plaintiffs were tenant farmers with land on either side of the road. They commenced proceedings against the council in August 1993 claiming an injunction and damages, alleging that the travellers had caused a considerable nuisance on their land.

When the action came on for trial in June 1998 the council, relying on the decision in *Hussain v Lancashire County Council* (1999) 77 P & CR 89, submitted that the claim should be struck out as disclosing no cause of action. The judge upheld that submission on the basis that the plaintiffs could only complain in nuisance of acts which had occurred on the council's land and caused damage on the plaintiffs' land.

The plaintiffs appealed, contending that there was no rule of law to the effect that there could not be an actionable nuisance when the

plaintiff had been injured in his use or enjoyment of his own land by the activities of third persons which had taken place on that land and off the defendant's land.

Barry Payton and Philip Norman (Mogor & Sparrow, Barrs) for the plaintiffs; W.D.R. Spens (South Gloucestershire Council) for the council.

Lord Justice Evans said that the sole issue raised by the appeal was whether the facts as alleged in the statement of claim could amount to a nuisance as a matter of law.

There was no rule of law which prevented the owner occupier of land from being held liable for the tort of nuisance by reason of the activities of his licensee, which took place off his land. The principle, as stated by Lord Goff in *Hunter v Canary Wharf* (1997) AC 655, was that as a general rule some form of "emanation" from the defendant's land was required.

On analysis, what had "em-

anated" in the present case was the travellers themselves. That form of emanation was not difficult to accept. If it were somehow excluded from the definition of a nuisance, then any number of examples would come to mind where the distinction would be artificial in the extreme. Keeping fierce dogs and allowing them to roam would be a nuisance; taking them on to a neighbour's land and releasing them would not.

In *Hussain* the defendant was held not liable in its capacity as local housing authority for an alleged nuisance created by its tenants on a local housing estate. The court held that the acts complained of "did not involve the tenant's use of [his] land and therefore fell outside the scope of the tort".

The facts alleged in *Hussain* were materially different from those in the present case. The disturbance complained of in *Hussain* was a public nuisance for which the individual perpetrators could be held liable, and they were identified as individuals who lived in council property. Their conduct was not, however, in any sense linked to, nor did it emanate from, their homes.

In the present case the allegation was that the travellers had been allowed to congregate on the council's land and that they had used it as a base for the unlawful activities of which the plaintiffs, as neighbours, complained. It was at least arguable that that could give rise to liability in nuisance, and accordingly, the claim should not have been struck out.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

THE 23RD Richmond Rapidplay, organised by Richmond Junior Chess Club, took place on Sunday 18 April with 95 players in four sections.

The Open was stronger than usual, with a grandmaster and six international masters among the 27 entrants. While GM Aaron Summerscale was bombing out on just 4/5, it was left to the six IMs to fight it out. Andrew Ledger took the event by the scruff of the neck, winning his first five games including consecutive defeats of fellow IMs Alex Cherniaev (Russia), Saevar Bjarnarson (Iceland) and Richard Bates before a quick draw in the last round with Gavin Wall to romp home on 5.5/6. He was followed by Bjarnarson 5 and Gavin Wall and IM Simon Williams 4.5.

In the small Major-14 players - Andrew Bigg was first on 5/6, David Bates made 5/8 in the Intermediate and Trevor Pettit and Ivan Sayer shared first place in the Minor on 5/6.

The next Richmond Rapidplay will be on 6 June (Richard James, 0181-698 0362/1190, or rjcc@globalnet.co.uk).

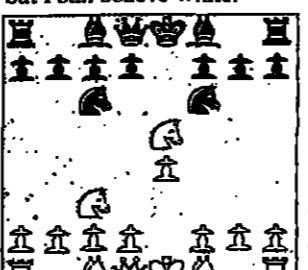
By its very nature, you can get away with a lot more at Rapidplay than at a slower time limit. Take this extraordinary game from the Major.

I'd never seen this amazing gambit before but it obviously packs a serious punch at a fast time limit. In fact I did find four games in a big database, all with a Mr D. Frank as White in the Pinneberg (which, I discovered is a little north of Hamburg) Open in different years.

My feeling would be to return a second pawn as soon as possible and somewhat curiously (I hope I'm not spoiling Mr Faldon's fun too much either) N. Meyberg did so in a game against D. Frank in the Pinneberg Open 1992 with 7...d5 8 Bxd5 c6 9 Bb3 Bb4 10 Qd3 Bc6 11 Bb2 Bxc3 12 Bxc3 N8e7 13 0-0 0-0 14 Qd3 c5 15 f4 Rc8 16 Bc4 Bxc4 17 Qxc4 cxd4 18 Qxd4 Qxd4 + 19 cxd4 Bxc2 and Black won easily.

8...d5 9 Bxd5 (9 exd6 Nf6) 9...Bc6 10 Bxb7 Rb8 11 Bc6+ Kf8 is also possible. As played, though, White got a huge attack. If 13...c6 14 f5 d5 15 exd6 Qxd6 16 f6g6 h6g6 17 Rael

White is better. 14...d5? lost 14...Nf8 also looks bad after 15 f6 Qa3 16 Rf3! Ng6 17 Rg3 Qf8 18 Rxe6+ h6g6 19 Qxg6+ Kh8 20 Bx7 and there seems to be no defence to Ral-f1-f1-h6h6+. So perhaps 14...Nh4 or 14...Nh8 to leave B free for the queen; but I still believe White.



White: Dave Faldon
Black: Douglas Hogan
Four Knights
1 Nc3 e5 9 0-0 Bxc3
2 Ng3 Nc6 10 Bxc3 Nf6
3 0-0 Nf6 11 Qd3 f6
4 Nxe5?? see 12 Bxh6 g6h6
diagram 13 f4 Rd8!!
...Nxe5 14 f5 d5?
5 d4 Ng6 15 exd6 cxd6
6 e5 Ng8 16 f6g6 h6g6
7 Bc4 Bb4!! 17 Qxg6+
8 Qf3 Qe7 1-0

THE AUCTION here had its amusing side, anathema to natural bidders as it must be, but the play had a practical point - first suggested, I think, in an article by Albert Dormer.

Playing a Strong Club system, South duly opened One Club and North responded One Spade. This showed a balanced hand with no five-card suit and at least eight points, but had nothing to do with his spade holding. South's next bid of 1 no-trumps may look cautious but the partnership was now in a game-forcing situation and this merely showed that he also held a balanced hand, as yet unlimited.

Now North, though his slam hopes were low, could not resist testing his partner's memory with a range enquiry of 2 no-trumps. Only after slipping off a shoe to assist his counting, South bid Five Clubs - exactly 27 points! Hoping for the best, North shot to 7 no-trumps and West gloomily led ♠10.

There were 12 top tricks and a 13th if either spades or diamonds broke evenly or the same defender held length in

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

| Game all; dealer South | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| North | |
| ♠O 5 2 | |
| ♥Q 7 4 | |
| ♦A Q 7 3 | |
| ♣A 5 2 | |
| West | |
| ♠J 8 6 4 | East |
| ♥8 5 | ♠10 7 |
| ♦10 9 | ♥10 9 3 2 |
| ♣J 8 6 4 | ♦J 9 6 2 |
| | ♣10 9 3 |
| South | |
| ♠A K 9 3 | |
| ♥A K J | |
| ♦K 5 4 | |
| ♣A K Q | |

both suits. As you can see, nothing works. But declarer shrewdly tested the diamonds first - of which course contained four cards. West could part with a heart on the third diamond, but now came three rounds of hearts. Pity poor West! Should he throw a spade or a club? He parted with a spade, and it was all over.

Note that South's play did not jeopardise any genuine chances. Had he tested spades first, though, West would have known to save ♠J and East would have had no trouble keeping all his diamonds.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

banana, n.

MY HISTORY master, David Jones, once read out the overdue library books, including *21 Popular Economic Fallacies*: "The whole subject's a fallacy!" Witness the current dispute over bananas and consequent cashmere crisis. Nations are trying to be top banana. One of many senses absent from the OED, it is a

penis, fender, football pass, aeroplane, an adaptive Asian and jaundice victim. Some believe that Moses' grapes from the Promised Land were really bananas. Meanwhile, let us honour the great Jane Grigson by insisting on tiny ones from the Canaries. Too few are imported: excellent with gin or kirsch, not rum.

I've got my own project to do (sniff)

Musical differences. Personal differences. Sex. There are many reasons why bands break up. And they're all part of the career trajectory, man. By David Thomas

So, farewell then, The Verve. You made that brilliant single about the drugs not working. And the other one that was nicked from the Stones. Now you are all going to be working on your own projects.

There are few phrases in the PR lexicon more filled with bathos than "working on their own projects". In any given band there are rarely more than two members, if any, who have the talent to do more than go down the pub or score some dope on their own (frequently they can't even do that). So their projects most often consist of scrabbling around the dowdy end of the music business for a few years before lacking it all in and becoming furniture salesmen.

It's possible, of course, that The Verve will realise this and reassemble at some future date - older, wiser and significantly poorer - for another crack at the big time. This is not, after all, the first time that they've split. Richard Ashcroft, the band's gaunt, big-lipped frontman walked out in 1994, came back, then departed again in 1995, splitting the band in the process.

But, just as Liz Taylor could never quite resist Richard Burton, just as Mick can never quite get rid of Keef, so Ashcroft returned to his old schoolmates, the band got back together, and made their biggest-ever album, the gazillion-selling *Voyan Hymns*. Who knows, when the royalties have begun to run dry, they might re-unite once again.

So why do bands split in the first place? The most commonly cited reason is "musical differences", which roughly translates as "mutual loathing". This poisonous stew of interecine hatreds is often brought to the open by success, rather than failure. When the band starts out, it's just a bunch of lads crammed in the back of a Transit van, setting out to ear down the walls of the musical establishment (preferably while shagging as many birds as possible along the way).

But once the first hits have been made, it soon becomes apparent that the vast majority of all the money is going to the bloke (or at most two blokes) who wrote them. This causes profound resentment among

the remaining members of the band, who can't see why the pretentious pillock at the front should be getting 75 per cent of the cash, 90 per cent of the birds and 100 per cent of the media attention. It also infuriates the front man. There he is, working his nuts off, writing, singing, talking to endless bloody journalists, and those ugly, bone-idle spuds behind him still have the nerve to resent his hard-earned pay.

The other perennial band-buster is, to put it frankly, sex. If you have men and women in the same band - I give you Abba and Fleetwood Mac as exhibits (a) and (b) - the following sequence can be guaranteed.

- 1) They will sleep together, marry and then divorce each other.
- 2) The resulting personal tension and pain will inspire a brief moment of supreme creativity.
- 3) This will swiftly be followed by hormonally-charged levels of mutual antagonism so intense that no amount of money can keep the band together. A split is inevitable.

In the more traditional case of an all-male band, girlfriends and wives have a devastating effect on the emotional ecology of the group. Bands are essentially schoolboy gangs (as, indeed, The Verve actually were), preserved in an advanced state of emotional retardation.

As an example of this, I give you the Rolling Stones, circa 1988. As our story begins, Mick and Keith are in the middle of a decade-long spat that has seen both of them attempt to pursue disastrous solo careers, write nasty songs about each other, and generally behave like cantankerous six-year-olds who are in need of a good smack.

Enter Ronnie Wood, who is (a) friendly with both Mick and Keith, and (b), in serious need of some cash. He therefore wants the Stones to get back in harness. "Mick and Keith were at each other's throats and they weren't talking," said Ronnie. "The band nearly split and I couldn't stand by and let that happen, so I did my bit and got them talking again. They were in different parts of the world. Mick rang me and said: 'Keith just won't speak to me.' And I said: 'Well, frankly enough, I've just spoken to him and I know where he is. If you ring him now, he's in a very good mood and he doesn't hate you.' Mick wasn't really sure,



Emotional rescue: The Verve, top; and abject failures in the splitting game, right, the Rolling Stones

so I said: 'Just do me a favour, ring him up and ring me back with the results.' Sure enough, 15 minutes later, Mick rang and said: 'He doesn't hate me! We got on great!'

With this degree of emotional intensity between the male members of a band, there is little room for women as anything other than bed-mates. Loyalty to the lads comes first. Women, however, find it hard to accept this state of affairs. They want to re-prioritise their own importance in an upwards direction.

Thus, as any tear-stained Beatles fan could have told you in 1970, Linda drove Paul away from John, George and Ringo. Or was it that Yoko drove John away from Paul, George and Ringo? To this day, historians are split on this crucial issue. But one thing is certain... it was the wives' fault. Sometimes, bands are smart enough to see this problem coming. The members of Queen, for example, had a handful of university degrees between them. So when, in the early-Eighties, they were on the verge of splitting, they were able to remind themselves that, as Brian May recently told me, "the band was



more enduring than any of our marriages". The straight band-members got divorced, but the band just kept on trucking.

In the end, Queen were torn asunder by the death of Freddie Mercury. The immediate commercial effect of his demise was that they sold enormous quantities of records, thus becoming even more outrageously wealthy than before. The long-term effect, however, was less salutary. Both Brian May and the band's drummer Roger Taylor are working on solo projects. They are fit, hard-working, and full of beans. In their time, they have both written massive worldwide hits. But can they get anyone to listen to, let alone give

air-time to their current records?

Without their brand-name, they are nothing. Eventually former band members recognise this. Years after they fell apart, having endured long years of fretful obscurity, they begin to forget what the problem ever was. They start thinking that it might be nice to see their mates again. They consider the benefits of playing to a packed stadium, rather than an empty pub.

And so, like Fleetwood Mac, Culture Club, Blondie and the Eagles, they get together again, and head out for the road. Who knows, one day The Verve might do the same thing. Until then, there are still those projects to be getting on with...



POETIC LICENCE

THE HIDDEN COUNTRY

BY MARTIN NEWELL

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

In a new "warts and all" assessment, the *Lonely Planet* travel guide has rubbished many of Britain's salient tourist spots. Wales, Blackpool the Lake District, Great Yarmouth, Wales and London have all come under fire, with Buckingham Palace being slated for its flock wallpaper

Not in any guidebook ever published
Nor in trendy listings maps or files
Pictured, packaged, photographed
promoted

Will you find the treasures of these lands
Their names are half-forgotten
Their pleasures partly private
And their distance is in cross-flight
not in miles

The City on a Sunday in December
Though walk in early morning if you go
Down Threadneedle Street
In sharpened sunlight
Upon the poorest powdering of snow
With petrol-headed pigeons
From shadows blue as bruises
On dirty vaults of London down below.

Or Dunwich in the galleon of the autumn
The last East Anglian port without a quay
Where ruined by the rapine of the ocean
A medieval city used to be
Its ancient lords and ladies
The bonefles in the shingle
Its churchbell clappers tolling undersea.

All along the sheep-tracks over downland
The jingle-harnessed ghosts of pilgrim spring
Or from a train, the teatime lights of Swansea
Allotment sheds, a child on a swing.
A market under arches
The traders chapped and cheerful
Long in the red and long-past worrying.

A guidebook never gets the hidden Britain
The depthless tarns, the circles from the air
The crumbling brick-lined pit
Found in a farmyard
Its grating to restrain some long-dead bear.
The writers drugged or drowning
The rockstars crashed and burned
The country haunts itself
Why should it care?

From Ragdoll to riches via Tubbyland

The creator of the Teletubbies has been voted Businesswoman of the Year. Yet Anne Wood's business has not made her personally rich. Can such a passionate and single-minded person have missed a trick? By Jane Robins

YESTERDAY WAS unusual for Anne Wood. Instead of her usual long working day at Teletubby HQ in Stratford-upon-Avon, the woman who gave life to Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa and Po was at Claridges in London to collect her Businesswoman of the Year award. Trendy young things from the event's sponsor, a champagne, kept plying her with bubbly for the photocalls. But, says a colleague: "I didn't see her sip up all morning. We did have a nice cup of tea earlier, though."

Wood's personality, say her friends, is nothing like that of the contemporary she is sometimes compared with - Anita Roddick. Both are passionate about their businesses, but while Roddick is to be found hugging Indians in Brazil or doing her thing in Labour Party ideas, Wood's life is set on a more intimate, personal stage. Her current extra-curricular project is to buy a field in Warwickshire with her husband Barrie, and to create a wildlife meadow there.

The comparison with the Body Shop's creator is relevant, though, in highlighting how a certain sort of businesswoman can hit the big time. Both women were driven by a very simple idea, and started small. In Roddick's case it was a small shop

in Brighton selling "natural products"; with Wood it was the setting up of a tiny television company, Ragdoll, in her home in Birmingham 14 years ago.

Her simple idea was that television should actually give children what they want. As an English teacher she had noticed how many books for children were simply a turn-off for young readers. Too often, adult authors created tomes that reflected their own idea of how young imaginations should be stimulated, and there seemed to be huge pressure on children to make the effort to enjoy what is good for them.

So, after setting up a magazine on books for children, and working her way up the children's programme department of TV-am, she eventually set up her own company in 1985 to explore her ideas in a purer, more focused way.

In a sense, the birth of Ragdoll productions was where the story of the Teletubbies, and their world domination, began - because they arose out of Wood's constant experimentation with new ways to communicate with children. Some have described her methods as scientific, but she does not really see it like that.

At the Ragdoll shop in Stratford,

most of the space is filled with toys, and staff are expected constantly to monitor the way that children play. For the Teletubby programmes themselves, Wood has employed a "tester" who films small children as they are watching the stories - anything that the children do not like, does not get broadcast.

A certain amount of control freakishness on Wood's part is evident.

Her conviction that the Teletubbies should have a limited lifespan has BBC bosses quaking in their corporate boots

She insists, for instance, that all filming of the *Tubbies* is set in authentic Teletubbyland, meaning that it always takes place on location in a converted field, out of doors or in the curious metallic dome the creatures inhabit with their strange futuristic chum, The Noo-noo. "It would make everything easier, and cheaper, if we could occasionally film in a studio. We wouldn't be so beholden to the weather, but Anne won't have it," says a programme insider.

Her confidence is endless. She is said to be fearless in taking on new

projects. She is, in fact, about to make her first feature film for children - not *Tubbies: The Movie*, but something entirely new.

And her intensity about the Teletubbies, and conviction that they should have a limited lifespan before adjourning to Tubbyheaven has BBC bosses quaking in their corporate boots. Last year, they got the whiff of an idea that Anne might

think it is time to move on to a new project, and the Children's Department "was awash with fear" until they squeezed a further 100 programmes out of her.

The Anne Wood that friends describe has passion and conviction but is not, it has to be said, a natural businesswoman. In the early days of Ragdoll, her ignorance of business methods was so worrying that she signed up for a local course on how to run a shop - a nice contrast to the £15,000 business courses at the London Business School, Wharton and

Harvard which middle managers at the BBC regularly attend.

And, for years, Ragdoll's profits were a lamentable 1 per cent of turnover. Even now, with the runaway global success of the *Tubbies*, that has inched up to only 10 per cent. What's more, the Businesswoman of the Year is managing a company a fraction of the size of an ICI or a Sainsbury's. She employs only 70 people. The profits themselves were only £700,000 in 1997, and are up to £9m now. The growth is impressive, but business analysts say the profits are ludicrously small when compared with the cultural impact of the Teletubbies worldwide.

Think about it, they say. The Teletubbies are famous in 22 countries and have been translated into 21 languages. Only Russia, India and China fall outside the Tubby map, and China is, according to the BBC, about to be conquered. And then there are the spin-offs - *Tubbytoys*, *Tubbybooks*, *Tubbytoasters*, *Tubby records*. The BBC has made £23m out of the creatures. So how come Ragdoll makes only £9m? Surely the Businesswoman of the Year could have kept more dosh for herself?

The answer is probably a paradox. It is Anne Wood's intensity about her mission to reach out to children that

has produced her success. It is also her single-mindedness in pursuit of her idea that has meant she has not exploited the business-side as relentlessly as she might have done.

In the end, her success is limited and it is simple. Although she has made *The Sunday Times* Rich List, she is a small player compared with Ann Gloag, the boss of transport firm Stagecoach, who is worth a very hefty £980m, or the dozen or so billionaires in British business.

And yet there simply weren't enough more powerful, or more successful, businesswomen around to beat her to the award. She herself said yesterday that her business skills were a sort of "by-product" of her passion for children's programmes. And, she said, it was a comment on the lack of success for women in business that the award still exists.

It would surely be progress if it were to evolve into Businessperson of the Year. Eh Oh.



صكرا من الامم

SCIENCE

Young men pick up cues from a violent society and pose their own threat. How can we break the cycle? By Sanjida O'Connell

What makes a child a killer?

Last week, two teenage boys bombed and shot at their own classmates in a school in Colorado, killing 12 students and their teacher. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold then committed suicide. These appalling events at Columbine High School, situated in the predominately white, middle-class town of Littleton, raise disturbing questions about the nature of violence. What turned two apparently ordinary boys, from affluent backgrounds, into ruthless killers?

An epidemic of violence among the young is sweeping America. Arrests have soared in the last few decades, gang membership increased by 50 per cent between 1989 and 1995, and the juvenile murder rate has more than doubled since the Eighties. One psychologist, Professor James Garbarino of Cornell University, has gone so far as to say that the US is in danger of losing a generation of young men to violence. He calls them the "lost boys".

Prof Garbarino, who is professor of human development at Cornell and a director of its Family Life Development Centre, has just finished a book of the same title in which he tries to unravel the factors that lead children to extreme aggression. His approach is to listen to individual cases as they are presented to him and attempt to understand what causes a child to become a potential killer.

"Sometimes as I listen to people talk about violent youth... it seems that few people really care about hurt little boys who have grown up to be violent teenagers. It is as if we want to forget how they got to be kids who kill in the first place," he says. "Perhaps we feel that understanding them is unnecessary because punishment is the only issue, or perhaps we feel that an attempt to understand them is dangerous because it may excuse their actions."

Factors cited to explain why a child may kill include genetic inheritance, parental upbringing and the increasingly toxic nature of contemporary American society. "These boys fall victim to an unfortunate synchronicity between the demons inhabiting their own internal world and the corrupting influences of modern American culture: vicarious violence, crude sexuality, shallow materialism, mean-spirited com-



Eric Harris, one of the two teenagers responsible for the massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado last week

petitiveness and spiritual emptiness," says Professor Garbarino.

The problem usually begins in early childhood. Over the last seven years, child abuse has doubled: 42 out of every 100,000 children are abused every year in the US. Many of the children Professor Garbarino talks to at his family centre were either abused or abandoned by one or both parents.

Boys often react to abandonment in two main ways, according to the Professor: they gradually lose the capacity to feel emotions, as well as externalising the pain, so that they attribute how they feel to the actions of others. They feel victimised, and deal with their distress through action, particularly violent action. The condition is known as "covert depression", since the sufferer fails to

acknowledge his own feelings. Depression is a particular problem for violent boys. Professor Ronald Kessler, of Harvard Medical School, has shown that the rate of serious depression among American youth has risen from 2 per cent in 1960 to 25 per cent today.

Abuse and abandonment are crucial factors here, but one of the more controversial areas in psychology is the theory that criminals are born, not made. One programme begun in the Sixties showed that children who were aggressive at eight turned into 38-year-olds who hit family members, got into fights and drove aggressively. "This gives a developmental spin to road rage: it may start as 'tricycle rage'," says Professor Garbarino. However, he argues that a combination of nature

and nurture is the key. The very kind of environment a person grows up in will affect his genetic legacy. For example, a child growing up in a deprived area could be subject to poor nutrition and industrial carcinogens; a child with the same genetic make-up, in a middle-class area, may have the benefits of intra-uterine surgery or nutritional therapy for a genetic disorder. "Biologically based predispositions to violence translate into behaviour only when they occur in social situations that permit or encourage that."

A recent study by the psychologists Sarnoff Mednick and Elizabeth Kandel, conducted in the Netherlands, looked at children who had a slight physical defect, such as a misshapen head. This can indicate a

underlying minor neurological disorder arising during pregnancy, which may lead to mental instability and learning disorders. Those children who grew up in stable families had no greater risk of being arrested for violent crimes by the time they were 21 than any other child; yet 70 per cent of those who were in unstable, troubled families had been arrested by the time they reached the age of 21.

Professor Garbarino wholeheartedly believes that being born difficult does not mean you will end up difficult. In his own words, he was a "cranky, troublesome, wilful and aggressive" child. He was saved by the mutual incomprehension and suspicion between these two groups. Rereading the lecture, I am struck by the restricted nature of the two cultures that interested him. It was as if literary intellectuals were a major force in society, and there should be concern that they did not understand the second law of thermodynamics.

Nowhere in his discussion do other "cultures" appear; there are no lawyers, bankers, politicians, sportspeople, artists, or members of the public at large. I also detect a sort of snobbery in his arguments, which closely reflects Oxbridge life.

The lecture is also deeply disappointing in the analysis as to why the apparent mutual incomprehension should exist, and all his evidence is no more than Oxbridge anecdote. Nevertheless the idea of the two cultures has become synonymous with the problems associated with the public understanding of science. Taking a broader view than Snow, we can ask whether there is now, 40 years later, a better understanding of science by the public, always remembering that there is no one public. There are, in this sense, many publics, which range from children to members of parliament.

There is no good evidence on which we can base such a judgement, not least because it is hard to know what we mean by public understanding of science. It certainly does not mean the extent to which

according to Professor Jeremy Shapiro and colleagues from Cleveland University. They need to be the type of person who reacts aggressively to shame: if someone insults you, you have to fight them. Secondly, gun-carrying children are not worried by other people possessing firearms: thirdly, guns excite them; and finally, they feel powerful and secure when in possession of a gun.

Coupled with easy access to guns is the pervasive spread of violence on TV. A typical American child can witness more images of death and destruction in films and television than a policeman or a soldier sees in a lifetime. The American Psychological Association (APA) conducted a survey of TV violence and showed that nearly half the violent acts committed are perpetrated by the hero; more than two-thirds of the time the aggressor shows no remorse and receives no criticism or punishment. Though there is no simple correlation between screen violence and real violence, the APA states that the link between the two is as strong as the correlation between smoking and cancer.

In the absence of any change in attitude in the gun culture of America, where the National Rifle Association still holds huge influence, is there any hope for disaffected, violent youth? Professor Garbarino believes that some lost boys can be saved. He cites the example of one such boy, Malcolm, who is on death row. He has participated in drug-related kidnappings as a victim and perpetrator, has been fired at during drive-by shoot-ins and has been involved in them himself. He has committed armed robbery, committing murder for the first time at the age of 13; he has been scarred by beatings from his mother, his uncle, his stepfather, drug bosses, neighbourhood rivals and the police; and he lost his baby son after his heavily pregnant girlfriend was shot at. Garbarino remembers that when he gave Malcolm a book, the hard-boiled image suddenly crumpled with emotion. "This is for me, really? Thanks, man. Nobody ever gave me a book before," he said, as a tear ran down his cheek. As the Professor says, "A single tear is a precious commodity in the emotional economy of boys like Malcolm."

There are four basic reasons why children are drawn to guns, according to Professor Garbarino's book, *Lost Boys*, by James Garbarino is to be published in May by Free Press

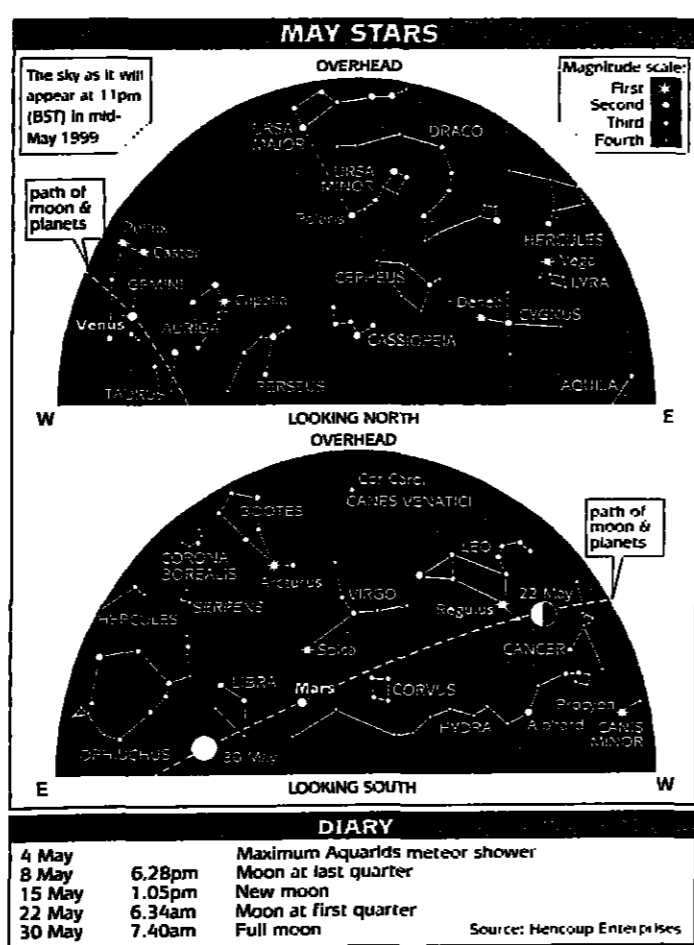
STARS AND PLANETS: MAY

ON MAY evenings, the large, ancient constellation of Virgo takes centre stage in the southern sky. Shaped like a "Y", it bears little resemblance to a maiden bearing an ear of corn – but within Virgo's mundane outline is a treasure trove of delights. With binoculars, sweep the "bowl" of the Y, and if your skies are clear and dark you should pick out a number of fuzzy patches. These are just a handful of the thousands of galaxies, many much bigger than our own Milky Way, making up the giant Virgo Cluster.

We have known for some time that the basic building-blocks of the Universe are clusters and superclusters of galaxies. These reflect the distribution of matter that came out of the Big Bang. More important, they also reveal the location of the mysterious "dark matter" that may make up more than 90 per cent of the mass of the Universe. The visible galaxies ride the dark matter like surfers on a wave.

To track down the dark matter, and to get an accurate picture of how the galaxies are distributed in 3D, astronomers have lately been conducting their own censuses of the Universe. One of the first was the British/Australian "2dF" (2-degree field) survey, conducted with the Anglo-Australian Telescope in New South Wales. This looks at an area of the sky some two degrees across, or four moon-widths. Small though this may seem, it is enormous compared with the field of view of the Hubble Telescope (one-thirtieth the Moon's diameter), and allows the distances to 400 galaxies to be measured simultaneously. Astronomers aim to end up with a 3-D map of 250,000 galaxies.

On the other side of the world at Apache Point Observatory in New Mexico, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey shares the same



technology as the 2dF survey, even down to the size of the area surveyed. At the heart of the instrument – placed at the focus of a 2.5-metre telescope – is an array of optical fibres. By studying existing sky-images, astronomers can position the fibres exactly where the galaxies lie. Plug in the fibres, point the telescope, and light from each galaxy tumbles down its own fibre to a sensitive spectrograph, which measures the distance.

The project leader, Jim Gunn of Princeton University, points out that surveys such as this

wouldn't have been possible even 10 years ago. "We've got state-of-the-art detectors – silicon CCDs – which detect 70 per cent of the light that falls on them, instead of the 1 per cent registered by photographic plates. Plus, the database will produce 10 terabytes, something that daunted us when we started planning – but not now."

Over a five-year period, Sloan will perform a 3D survey of a million galaxies in our "near" neighbourhood – out to about 3 billion light years. Its data will be complementary to that

obtained on much more distant galaxies by the orbiting Hubble Telescope, so astronomers can pinpoint evolution in both galaxies and structures as the Universe grows older. "This will allow us to understand what the Universe is like now, how it has been, and what it will be like in the far future," says Gunn.

As well as mapping the distribution of galaxies and the underlying dark matter – both fossil relics of conditions following the Big Bang some 13 billion years ago – surveys such as the 2dF and Sloan are going to put a considerable amount of flesh on the largely theoretical skeleton that describes our Universe. "Cosmology has been a subject in which there have been lots and lots of ideas and very, very little data," Gunn explains.

"Finally, there is going to be lots and lots of data. We will perhaps be able to understand the Universe – and among some of those theories there may even be one that's right."

What's up this month
Venus is looking like a brilliant lantern hanging in the western twilight, and it is growing still brighter as it draws closer to the Earth in its orbit. Mid-month, it sets three-and-a-half hours after the Sun. On 18 May it will appear close to the crescent moon in the sky.

Mars, too, is putting on a good performance this month, and is on view nearly all night long in the south. Although only one-tenth as bright as Venus, it still outshines most of the stars, and its lurid red colour makes it unmistakable.

Mercury is too close to the Sun to be visible now; Jupiter and Saturn are also hard to see, emerging above the horizon within an hour of sunrise.

NIGEL HENBEST AND
HEATHER COUPER

Even Galileo didn't understand tides

THE IDEA of "the two cultures" in relation to science and the public is now part of our culture. It is 40 years since CP Snow used this phrase in his now famous Rede lecture in Cambridge, although he had used the idea in an article in the *New Statesman* in 1956. The two cultures to which he was referring were those of literary intellectuals and natural scientists. He drew attention to the mutual incomprehension and suspicion between these two groups.

Rereading the lecture, I am struck by the restricted nature of the two cultures that interested him. It was as if literary intellectuals were a major force in society, and there should be concern that they did not understand the second law of thermodynamics.

Nowhere in his discussion do other "cultures" appear; there are no lawyers, bankers, politicians, sportspeople, artists, or members of the public at large. I also detect a sort of snobbery in his arguments, which closely reflects Oxbridge life. The lecture is also deeply disappointing in the analysis as to why the apparent mutual incomprehension should exist, and all his evidence is no more than Oxbridge anecdote. Nevertheless the idea of the two cultures has become synonymous with the problems associated with the public understanding of science. Taking a broader view than Snow, we can ask whether there is now, 40 years later, a better understanding of science by the public, always remembering that there is no one public. There are, in this sense, many publics, which range from children to members of parliament.

There is no good evidence on which we can base such a judgement, not least because it is hard to know what we mean by public understanding of science. It certainly does not mean the extent to which



LEWIS WOLPERT

people understand the second law of thermodynamics. I have even been told by several distinguished physicists that they themselves find it very difficult to understand – a relief, as I myself do not understand it except at a superficial level.

There have been major changes, not least the whole idea of the

I'd like non-scientists to know that science is the best way to understand how the world works

public understanding of science, which came from a Royal Society report in 1985 chaired by Walter Bodmer. The report strongly encouraged scientists to interact with the public and to feel no shame in collaborating with the media.

Some measure of the possible progress stemming from that report is that the government-funded research councils now have as part of their mission statement that they should make their research accessible to as wide a public as possible.

There is also the recognition that scientists need to understand the public, particularly their concern about the applications of science.

Another sign of progress is the intense interest in popular science, though I do wonder if the interest is not possibly due to seeing science as a kind of magic, rather than a result of genuine understanding.

Have those million or so readers of Stephen Hawking's book, *A Brief History of Time*, learnt some physics? Snow missed, I think, an essential feature of science that can make it rather alienating, namely that the world is not built on a basis that fits with common sense, natural expectations. Much of public understanding of science is respect without comprehension.

Even the evidence that we rotate about the sun is hard to believe and to understand. The mechanism of the tides is no trivial matter; Galileo himself failed to solve the problem.

Even basic scientific ideas are not always common knowledge: some 30 per cent of the population believe that tomatoes do not contain genes or DNA unless they have been genetically modified. And I repeatedly find that those who are concerned about human cloning fail to recognise that the cloned child has a mother and a normal birth, and will have to go to school.

But what would I like non-scientists to know about science? That science is the best way to understand how the world works, and the nature of the evidence upon which it is based. For example, in medicine and health we must rely on clinical trials, not anecdote. But certainly not understanding the second law, or any other, as Snow would have liked.

The writer is professor of biology as applied to medicine at University College London

Gods and monsters

Pioneering computer film festival OneDotZero isn't interested in showcasing the usual film-school suspects. If you own a mid-range PC you could be their next star. By Oliver Swanton

Last year Shane Walters and Matt Hanson screened a special compilation programme of digital films for the James Bond production crew. It was an edited summary of their annual OneDotZero film festival, the highlights of the latest innovations in digital moving image. Exciting, ground-breaking, even revolutionary stuff, they thought. But the Hollywood regulars, old hands to a man, were unimpressed. They couldn't see why the films were special, or even different. What's the big deal, they puzzled. They could achieve better effects in their studios.

With enough resources, access to a multi-million-dollar production suite and about 30 years' experience in the film industry, anyone could achieve similar results. However, it's the means to that end that make ground-breaking digital films that Walters and Hanson clearly love. Push-button creativity and digital editing are now an affordable reality for any mid-range PC owner. Within reason, if you're willing to forgo some of life's little luxuries, you can assemble a full production and editing suite in your own bedsit. You do not necessarily require expensive actors, stage sets or even cameras, and the finished film is of broadcast quality.

This accessibility of technology is attracting people from "non-traditional" film backgrounds. People with very different skills, and ideas about story telling; people who could be – and arguably already are – changing the way mainstream film-makers approach the moving image. And that could be revolutionary.

"These film-makers are the most spectacular geeks," says Stevan Keane, commissioning editor for Channel 4 Later, who has just started screening the six part anthology series *OneDotTV*. "They stare at the floor when they're talking about the art itself; they're not bullshitting, hard-selling producer types by any stretch of the imagination. Nor are they seasoned directors hopping from festival to festival; they're just about experimentation and ideas – and that's invigorating."

"They produce such a range of exciting visuals," he adds. "Half pop video, half avant-garde art, with a bit of social commentary tucked in for good measure. They're important because in the classic experimental sense they're pushing back the boundaries, of both imagination and technology."

"Industrial, Light and Magic," adds Walters, "will take a car, put go-faster stripes down the side, pump up the wheels and transform it into a dragster. The film-makers we feature are at the other end of the spectrum. They get a bit of tin and some wheels and build their own cars, which are totally different from what went before, not simply enhanced."

The kind of producers Walters and

'These film-makers are spectacular geeks – not hard-selling types'

Hanson like to commission for their festival and feature on their new television show are likely to be graphic designers, computer programmers, record producers, even graffiti artists. They produce films that fuse live action with documentary, 10-ft illustration and Amiga-style computer graphics, such as Richard Kenworthy's work for James Lavelle's *UNKLE*. These films may intertwine pulsating abstract colours and shapes with cityscapes, like Andy Martin's *Throwing Down a Shape with Fila Brazilia*.

Some, like *Abe's Exodus* from *Oddworld Inhabitants*, are non-linear cinematic computer-animated sequences that were originally produced for computer console games (tm's). Many are digitally manipulated pop videos, such as Chris Cunningham's hysterical *rob pastiche*, *Window Licker*, starring the gyrating, bikini-clad, ugly Aphex Twins or Jonathon Glazer's disturbing *Robb in Your Headlights*, featuring a madman who refuses to stay down,

despite a multitude of head-on hit-and-run car accidents. "They're maverick works that defy convention," nods Walters.

This is a new underground, one far removed from the scratchy, black-and-white avant-garde. Its producers are informed by, and reference, psychedelic club visuals, advertisements, cartoons, MTV fast edits, kung fu and sci fi movies, photography, green space invaders... Their makers are having adventures in moving image because they can, not because they spent three years at film school learning how to. "These films are not about communicating to a small art set in some dingy little gallery," affirms Hanson.

Such producers are taking a whole new direction in moving image, Hanson maintains. They're not actively trying to break the feature model; they just don't feel in the slightest bit confined by it. The results can be immature. The first OneDotZero film festival was dominated by experimental singular images and graphics-based work that was little removed from the kind of rave videos and visuals that anyone under the age of 30 had already seen far too much of. In three short years, however, the same film-makers had moved on to implied narratives and conceptual works. Simultaneously, not only has the audience grown exponentially, but its tastes have significantly matured.

"There's only so much docuscop that people can stomach," grins Hanson.

The work that OneDotZero screens is not generally seen, but, more and more, it is informing and exciting mainstream programming. Its makers are increasingly finding a commercial outlet for their creativity, from spinning, twirling, imploding computer graphicidents to cut-and-paste TV ads, in title work and pop promos as well as graphic design and computer programming.

That the genre is steadily growing is testimony to Walters and Hanson's original vision that OneDotZero should be a production festival, rather than a simple showcase. Other, more established film festivals are beginning to set aside rooms to



Abe's Exodus from *Oddworld Inhabitants*: sequences originally produced for computer console games

screen the same films, but OneDotZero remains unique in that it is an enabling factor for digital film-makers.

Walters and Hanson see themselves as a "facilitator", a "conduit", a "catalyst" even. More than 25 films have already been made that wouldn't otherwise have existed, commissioned directly for the festival. It's an ethos they automatically extended to the new television series, of the four films featured in each half-hour anthology at least one was commissioned specifically for the series. "We had only a tiny budget," explains Hanson, "but we thought that was very important."

Walters and Hanson like nothing better than to introduce new faces to digital film, both as viewers and as producers. They love encouraging painters, sculptors, designers, even architects to think about moving image. They show them how easy it is, with the aid of a mouse, to transfer their skills to a new medium. They receive a well-earned ear among, especially, twentysomethings, for whom multi-skilling is not simply management shorthand for creating redundancies.

OneDotZero also sheds a little light on computer programming. Generally regarded as a geeky obsession, the computer

games industry has, the duo maintain, nurtured and developed a "tremendous" amount of talent. "Programmers come not only with a very different skills base, but from a very different cultural background," says Walters. "They squirrel themselves away in darkrooms and produce some fantastic pieces of film art that only hard-core gamers see. By putting that up on a cinema screen we're simply opening it up to a wider audience."

The OneDotZero film festival is at the ICA from 30 April to 9 May. *OneDotTV* is on Tuesdays on Channel 4.

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IN DREAMS

WHAT STARTED AS A DREAM, ENDED AS A NIGHTMARE.

AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM TODAY

Two into one doesn't go

WRITING A one-act play is as fast a ticket to obscurity as crafting a short story. However good it may be, it doesn't amount to a full evening's entertainment. The recent, inspired pairing of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* with Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy* showed the answer: make up a marriage of true minds. And that's exactly what Carol Metcalfe tries with her surrealist double bill of Stoppard's glorious one-act comedy *After Magritte* with Michael Nymman's chamber opera, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*.

The cunning link is René Magritte, one of whose images adorned the paperback edition of Oliver Sachs' original case study of a man suffering from aphasia, so that while his brain could register salient features of an object he could not comprehend the total picture, its "meaning". As in some of Magritte's paintings, the "reality" of an image is contradicted by a "real" explanation.

THEATRE

**AFTER MAGRITTE/
THE MAN WHO MISTOOK
HIS WIFE FOR A HAT**
BRIDEWELL THEATRE
LONDON

In Christopher Rawlence's libretto, a staging Sachs observes the seemingly surreal behaviour of his music teacher patient who has developed a musical way of coping with an increasingly mystifying world. He sings his way through basic tasks such as dressing and eating, which suggests that this story is ripe for musical adaptation. But Nymman's signature is more rhythmic than harmonically or melodically theatrical. The music doesn't appear to develop traditionally, the orchestral writing is too repetitive and emphatic and the vocal writing is too tense to release itself into operatic shape.

Metcalfe's awkward production does the piece no favours, with the pit-band swamping the singers. The teacher is



'After Magritte'

written for a wide-ranging baritone, but James Meek struggles to project at either end of his voice, thus sapping this libretto-heavy opera of its impact. You know there's something wrong when the most dramatically effective moment is when his character proves his musical credentials by singing "Ich grölle nicht" from Schumann's *Dichterliebe*.

There are similar problems of punch and dramatic punctuation in *After Magritte*, but

none of the faults is Stoppard's. On paper his rarely performed but supremely well-crafted comedy is hilarious. He takes a deliciously surreal opening image: a man in waders and evening dress fixing a light-bulb on a counterbalance with a fruit bowl, with his wife on all fours in full *Come Dancing* rig, his mother lying prone on an ironing-board and a policeman staring in through the window. With ruthless logic he then provides a "real" explanation for the entire mind-boggling scene and each character's deliciously funny, conflicting interpretation of the bizarre sighting of a blind, one-legged footballer.

These rich comic opportunities are, alas, largely missed by a cast who fail to mesh. Metcalfe's poorly paced and overblown production gathers only intermittent laughs as it rides roughshod over Stoppard's perfectly placed wit. An evening of good intentions and dashed hopes.

DAVID BENEDICT

A little black mischief

IMAGINE CARYL Churchill crossed with Mata Hari, given a strong dash of Harriet Beecher Stowe and shifted back in time to the 17th century. It's only by such fanciful-seeming amalgams that one can get the measure of the sheer unexpectedness of Aphra Behn, prolific Restoration dramatist, poet, spy in the Netherlands and author, in *Oroonoko*, of a prose narrative that – as historian Hugh Thomas put it in *The Slave Trade* – "was more influential than popes and missionaries" in fostering humanitarian sentiment.

The story she tells is of an African prince, sold into slavery, separated from his lover, and taken to the British colony of Surinam where he inspires a slaves' uprising. Politically betrayed, left with no option but to free his lover from a terrible fate by stabbing her, he achieves real tragic status. The material is inherently theatri-

THEATRE

OROONOKO
RSC THE OTHER PLACE
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

cal, but it was left to Thomas Southerne to furnish an adaptation which held the stage throughout the 18th century.

All honour to the RSC for bypassing Southerne and teaming Behn up with a contemporary Nigerian-born writer, Biji Bandele. This gives you a clue about the tone. There's political indignation but a refreshing lack of political correctness in Bandele's version. Gregory Doran's spare yet sumptuous-seeming production is splendidly attuned both to the poeticality and irreverent cheek of this reinterpretation. The Evelyn Waugh of the disgracefully funny *Black Mischief* seems to be performing a *pos de deux* with Ben Okri as this adaptation, for the first

time, dramatises the African section of the story. In dialogue systematically flecked with contemporary colloquialisms, it pulls you into a world where an ambitious operator like Geff Francis's expertly played Oroonoko can not only pimp his own pregnant daughter, but run a lucrative line in supplying slaves to the whites.

As the story shifts to the British colony and to the salacious depredations of the weak deputy governor (David Collings), Bandele has to shed a lot of the impish, undercurrent humour. What impresses, though, is that the proceedings never simplify into the black and white (so to speak) melodrama. It's an excellent touch here that Nicholas Monu's understated hero does not expire in a public execution (as in the Behn) or by heroic suicide (as in the Southerne). Instead, significantly, Oroonoko is shot dead by the most liberal white

in the colony. It's a complex, ironic moment because Treffy (Michael Fenner) is only pointing the gun to try to stop the chained-up hero stabbing himself. Is the shooting a split-second act of self-preservation or evidence of a reflex racism still in need of uprooting in the best of us? A powerful evening.

PAUL TAYLOR

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW
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MUSIC



Rip it up, start again

Remember Big Country? Lush melodies? Raw emotion and home-town pride? Old news. In the fifth part of our major series on devolution, Elisabeth Mahoney applauds the way Scottish pop has reinvented itself

When SNP candidate Jim Sillars overturned a safe Labour majority to take Glasgow Govan in the 1986 by-election, Ricky Ross sat down to write a song. The lead singer with Deacon Blue wrote "Don't Let the Tears Drop Start". It's about the long road to Scottish self-determination, hinting that the familiar foes of emotionalism and negativity may once again crush Scottish self-belief.

In these momentous days of imminent political change in Scotland, you might expect to find plenty more of the same going on. You might imagine be-kilted balladeers penning sentimental hearts-on-sleeves numbers, songs with "Braveheart" in the title, or at least the chorus; you're probably expecting a Big Country revival any minute now. But no, something strange is happening, or not happening, in Scottish pop right now. No one, musically, is taking much notice of the political goings-on.

This isn't to say individual musicians aren't interested or passionate about political change. But so far, there's been little crossover between devolution and pop, and that has a lot to do with the very healthy state of music in Scotland these days.

There's a line of argument which says that cultural confidence in Scotland has in effect forced political change, and it's an extremely seductive theory: go see plays, knock up some tunes, be flamboyantly creative with your pals at all times, find an Irvine Welsh, and eventually, a devolution-revolution will follow. But in the recent history of Scottish pop, rock, and dance music, this argument does indeed hold water.

At the end of last year, at a double-bill Mogwai and Arab Strap gig in Edinburgh, I found myself thinking the unthinkable in the company of Scottish bands, even the very best of the last decade or so: this sounds like nothing else. Don't get me wrong. Some of my best friends are records by Scottish groups. It's just that much as lyricists north of the Border have made a poignant romantic melancholy a house speciality, so too have musicians laid bare their influences for all to see. This doesn't mean there are no originals in the pack, but indebtedness to certain traditions and styles is only now becoming the exception rather than the rule in Scottish music.

In pop terms, the quintessentially Scottish style stems from one short-lived record label, Postcard. Set up in Glasgow in 1980 by Alan Horne as a reaction against New Romantic frilly excesses, Postcard was behind those winsome wonders Orange Juice (featuring Edwyn Collins), the brooding gloom of Josef K, early Aztec Camera, and a non-Scottish signing, The Go-Betweens.

Although only in operation for a couple of years, Postcard in effect set a large part of the musical agenda in Scotland for the



Then and now: (from top) Orange Juice / Mogwai; Big Country / Texas; Simple Minds / Arab Strap

two decades that followed. While a number of Scottish bands had come to UK-wide prominence during the Seventies - most notably the glorious glam-punk-retro of The Rezillos, and The Skids with Richard Jobson - it was Orange Juice and Co that established a discernible Scottish take on pop, and its legacy, in good, bad and stinking varieties, has been with us ever since.

At its best, it blends the lushest guitar-based melodies with sensitive or rawly

emotional lyrics (irony came later) and often quirky, distinctive vocals. Scottish bands have done some of the finest musical things ever with the joy and terror of love, the incandescent beauty of a rare summer's day, home-town pride, and the doom, gloom and misery when love leaves. With slight modifications, this formula applies to a swathe of Scottish bands, including The Pastels, Del Amitri, The Associates, Simple Minds, Geneva, Lloyd Cole and The Combinations

(Cole isn't Scottish but the Combinations were), The Bluebells, Teenage Fanclub, Hipsway, Blue Nile, Belle and Sebastian and (shudder) even Wet Wet Wet.

Everything that followed in Scottish pop has been influenced to a greater or lesser extent by this style, even if only in the self-conscious rejection of it. Some favoured earlier, often American inspiration, such as Hue and Cry and Deacon Blue. Texas took the Stateside inspiration furthest, building their

early image solidly from the styles of the American south.

Other mutant versions of Postcard pop included several bands signed to Alan McGee's Creation records, later to bring us Oasis. The Jesus and Mary Chain, Primal Scream and Morris embodied the darker flipside of the pretty but often wimpy pop; the sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll aesthetic so often absent in the melodic outpourings of other bands. Altered Images came more obviously from the Seventies punk stable, but Clare Grogan's vocals were sweet enough to make them fit the Postcard picture: Grogan and Edwyn Collins shared an NME cover in the early-Eighties.

Big Country - what can you say? They aimed for an urgency of sound in the style of The Skids, adding their own ringing bagpipe guitar lines and heavy-handed nationalism. It wasn't long before they were on the skids, let alone sounding like them.

So how did we get from Big Country to Mogwai. Simple Minds to Dawn of the Replicants, and the Postcard sound to the massive dance scene in Scotland? There are obvious links to earlier sounds: the guitar is still there in Mogwai, if only to take a severe thrashing; Arab Strap have taken the quirkiness mode and run with it; and the dance music must doff its cap to the crossover sounds of Primal Scream's "Loaded" (mixed by Andy Weatherall in a turning-point for Scottish pop), and the transformation of The Shamen into the band who brought us "Ebenezer Goode".

But there are differences that are even more obvious. That cultural confidence mentioned before shows itself through the casting off of the sometimes stultifying influences, be they American or Scottish, and that lyrical sentimentality has largely been eclipsed by something sharper, harder and more vital. In place of anthemic rabble-rousers or studenty-softies, there's the messed-up, dirty great sounds coming out of Soma Records, the Glasgow dance label started by Slam DJs Stuart and Orde. Or the delicious, diverse offerings of the crucial Chemical Underground label, set up by The Delgados. Mogwai, Arab Strap and Bis all hailed from this front room in someone's house (they've got proper offices now).

These are serious labels pushing serious talent in an increasing number of good, small venues. Other healthy signs are: the big clubs which still give London a run for its money; the fact that two of the biggest Scottish bands, Texas and Garbage, are fronted by women after it being such a boy's club for so long; and the continued presence of T in the Park, Scotland's own musical mud-bath in a field. Come see, if you haven't already. But please, don't send a postcard.

Classical music by Mary Miller, p14
Tomorrow: Nadine Meisner on the trouble with Scottish Ballet

Animal tragic

LIVE
SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
WOLVERHAMPTON
CIVIC HALL

ON THE day that Richard Ashcroft announced the demise of The Verve, Gruff Rhys, the vocalist from the Super Furry Animals, appeared to be limbering up as his successor. While Rhys may not have The Verve front man's hollow cheeks or emaciated frame, his air of wistful intensity was unadulterated Ashcroft. He was also in possession of a commanding stage presence. The other members of the band could have been hired session musicians as they lurked in the shadows, allowing the singer to bask in the spotlight.

Super Furry Animals form part of the wave of Welsh bands who have raised the cultural profile of Wales over the past few years, transforming Cardiff into a mecca for cheque-book-wielding A&Rs. But to lump the Super Furies alongside their Celtic contemporaries, Catatonia, Stereophonics, 60-ft Dolls, is to do little justice to their smart, psychedelic rock and the invention of their live shows.

Television screens flickered across the stage as if the band had stumbled across a Gilliamesque vision of the future. Kaleidoscopic patterns from the monitors were reflected on the singer's pallid face, adding to his enervated appearance. As they scrolled through the old classics, "Bad Behaviour", "God Show Me Magic" and "Fire In My Heart", the band's trademark whimsy took on a tragic tone as the pace remained slow and Rhys's voice was stretched to cracking point.

The band's early days as a techno outfit were still apparent as synthesised special effects bubbled to the surface between the verses. The arrival of a pair of trumpeters dressed as policemen also harked back to the band's old cartoon aesthetic, though laughter was immediately quelled by a glance at the singer's sombre demeanour. Even as he launched into their new single "Northern Lites", an exotic Beach Boys-style anthem, Rhys seemed unable to throw himself into the carnival atmosphere.

As kindergarten gimmicks were replaced by an austere future-aesthetic, and happy-clappy numbers were presented as rock songs, it seemed that the Super Furies were striving to transcend their theme park status and become a serious rock band. A sure legacy from The Verve.

FIONA STURGES
A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

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WHAT NEXT FOR THE ARTS IN SCOTLAND?



Wendy Murdoch
visual artist

"I hope that devolution will be a positive thing for the arts in Scotland, but it is hard to tell until we know how the Parliament intends to emphasise arts and

culture, and how the role of Minister of Culture will be filled. Art should be at the forefront of political policy. It is not just a recreational activity, but a life-enhancing thing. The visual arts scene in Scotland is very healthy. Hopefully the Parliament can only do more good."



Anne Lorne Gillies
arts & culture
spokesperson,
SNP

"Our Parliament marks a new phase in Scotland's cultural confidence - and with independence Scotland can become a major

cultural centre. The Scottish government must work with practitioners, the voluntary and private sectors and local councils to make the arts accessible to people in all parts of Scotland. We must wait for independence to gain autonomy in broadcasting - but we can and will lobby!"

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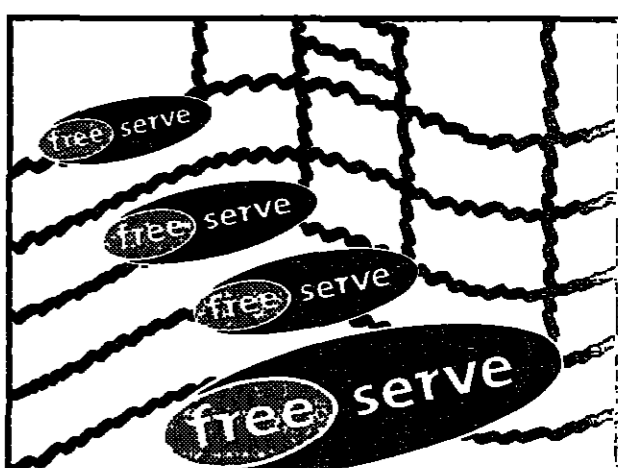


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